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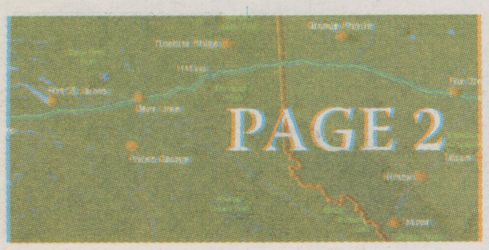
NEWS
Controversy over native chair



FEATURE
Images of homelessness

ARTS
SuicideGirls come to Victoria

SPORTS
Vikes gear up for the new year

Controversy over new aboriginal chair

by Matthew Gauk

Jeff Corntassel has one word for the new National Chair of Aboriginal Economic Development at UVic and its corporate benefactors: "shameful."

The new chair position, which will be chosen this school year and starts in the fall of 2007, will operate in the faculties of business and law. It's been in the works for about six years, but the last year-and-a-half has seen a boom in fundraising success. Calgary-based EnCana Corporation, Canada's largest energy company, donated $1 million to the chair, and this past June Enbridge Inc., another Calgary-based energy company, donated $200,000.

The stated aim of this chair is to "direct a program of research, relationship-building and education to advance aboriginal economic development in Canada," according to a UVic media release.

"The university has traded away some of its integrity for corporate sponsorship," said Corntassel, a member of the Cherokee and professor of political science in UVic's Indigenous Governance Program.

Corntassel bases much of his opposition to the chair's corporate sponsors on the fact that Enbridge is currently in the midst of a heated debate with First Nations in northern B.C. over the oil company's proposed Gateway Pipeline Project.

The pipeline would start northeast of Edmonton and end in Kitimat, a small coastal community in the northwest of B.C., where the oil would be exported to places like China and the United States.

Enbridge has encountered some serious opposition to the pipeline from local First Nations groups whose land the pipeline would cross. Bands like the Haida, the Carrier Sekani and the member nations of the Treaty 8 have all voiced concerns over possible spills and an unfair distribution of oil wealth. To this end, Enbridge is trying to increase awareness of the economic opportunities such projects could bring remote native reserves.

But Corntassel worries that the chair may be beholden to corporate motives such as Enbridge's desire for broad support among First Nations for the pipeline project. He said this kind of resource extraction-based economic development, which includes things like logging or the diamond industry, has historically been terrible for indigenous communities all over the world and ends up benefiting only a small number of people.

"The way I see it is these two corporations that have really poor track records of working with indigenous communities are seeking some form of legitimacy through the university," Corntassel said. "They're promising jobs, job training; they're promising new managerial positions and entrepreneurial opportunities. But these are pretty hollow promises when you look a little deeper."

Another of Corntassel's concerns about the corporate sponsorship has to do with the reputations of these two energy companies. EnCana has come under fire from Amnesty International due to its work in Ecuador.

The documentary, *Between Midnight and the Rooster's Crow*, examines the purported collusion between EnCana and the Ecuadorian government to quell opposition to their work by any means necessary. Similarly, Enbridge operates Colombia's biggest pipeline, OCENSA, and some groups, Amnesty included, share concerns that the OCENSA security apparatus is involved in conflict in Colombia.

Enbridge and EnCana representatives were not available for comment.

John Borrows is a professor in the faculty of law at UVic and is chair of Aboriginal Justice and Governance. Borrows, an Anishinabe and a member of the Chippewas of the Nawash First Nation, filled the first of two chair positions sought by the faculties of law and business a number of years ago, and he supports the creation of a second.

"Funders have been brought in, yes, but their aspirations direct the chair," he said. "In the past so much of economic development in aboriginal communities has been driven by external factors, by business and government. But we've been able to establish the independence of the chair."

Because the chair will be filled by a member of the faculty who will work as a professor, they will have complete academic freedom, according to Borrows. They will be accountable to the university senate, the dean and the board of governors, and not to EnCana or the provincial government. The chair will have complete independence to take positions and set their own research agenda, with "no strings attached," he said.

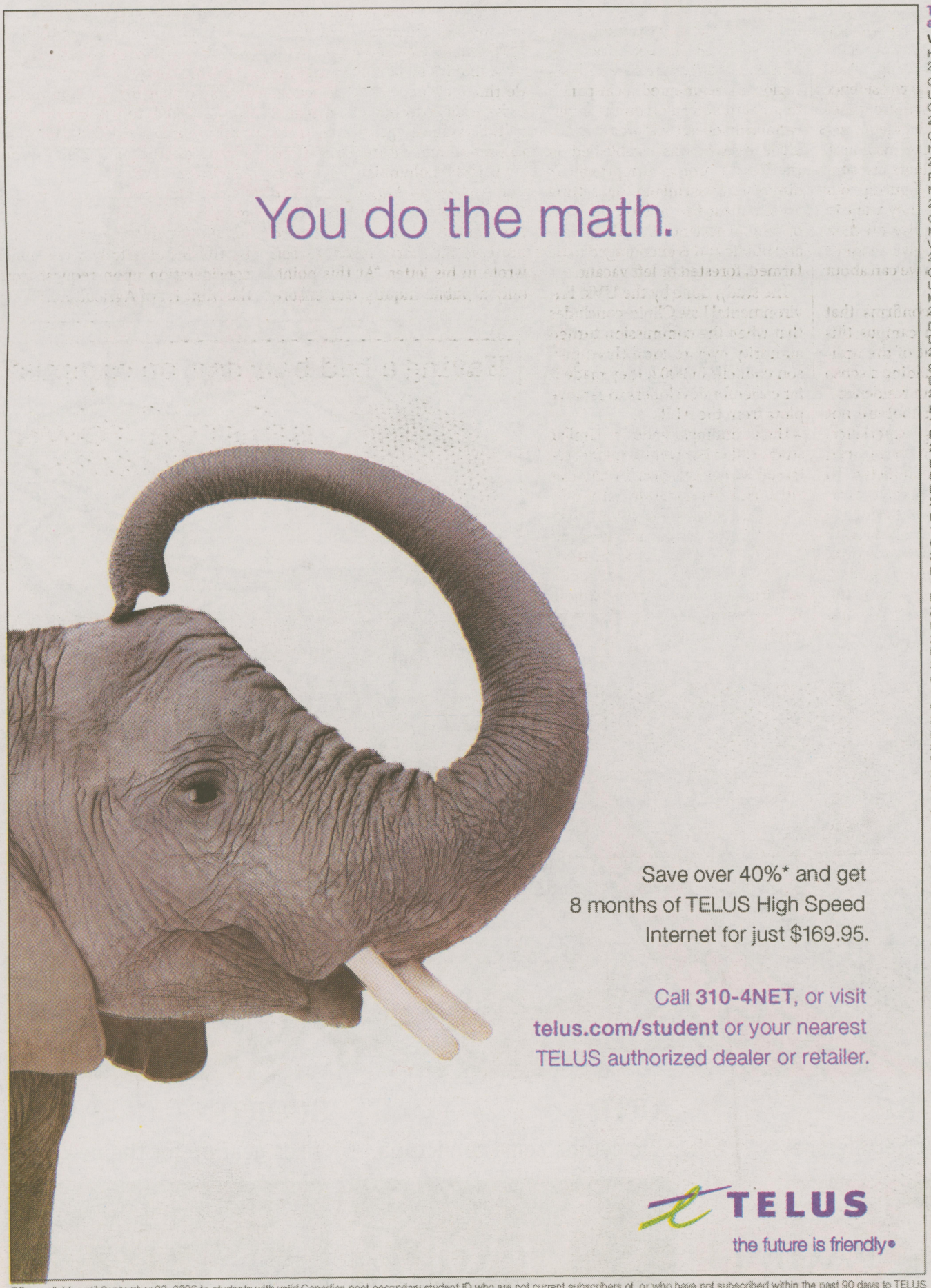
There will be a symposium this fall to determine the exact nature of the position. In broad terms, the chair will do research on what constitutes successful economic development within aboriginal communities and how to get there. It will establish working relationships with various arms of government and the business world to develop the material capacity of aboriginal communities, and it will create an environment to encourage students to come to UVic and study aboriginal economic development. The chair will also have a publications function and will create links with the co-op program to place students in the field.

Borrows said the chair would address some of the traditional problems in native communities such as higher levels of unemployment and underachievement in education. Any economic development in these communities will be done in accordance with aboriginal traditions and with respect to their view of the world.

"I guess this is a good thing if you see economic development as a solution to the problems in these communities," said Taiaiake Alfred, director of the Indigenous Governance Program. "I happen to think that economic development is a secondary concern. The first is ensuring the health and the cultural and social strength of the community.

"There's no evidence that money positively affects situations in native communities. Money has never solved the problems."

The remainder of the money for the chair came from Industry Canada, which donated $2 million, and the provincial government, which donated $1 million.



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Residence frosh week brings police attention

by Micah Luxen

Many students moving into residence at UVic this semester settled in under the watchful eye of campus security and Saanich Police.

According to first year resident Josh Stanford, the first three days after Sept. 2, when students moved in to on-campus housing, were a non-stop party.

"The week calmed down once classes started but before that, the streets were packed while RAs worked on crowd control," said Standford.

Students were not allowed to bring groups of friends into dorm rooms, as inside parties were not allowed. However, once the parties started up outside, police and campus security were careful to enforce the laws concerning underage drinking and fighting.

"Campus Security works together with Saanich Police and the Residence Life Office to create a safe environment for students," said Allison Eddy, campus security personal safety co-ordinator. "We have an excellent communication structure and work toward the same goal, that the students will enjoy a positive, safe experience here on campus."

While enforcers may have been positive, many students also look back at their first week in residence with fondness.

"There were a lot of drunk kids and angry cops," said 18-year-old resident Robbie Fischbuch. "I thought I could outrun the cops after I got caught underage drinking but then I heard panting behind me and realized I was being chased by a police dog. All I thought was, 'What's my mom going to think?'"

Another under-age resident, who wishes to remain anonymous, shared that he was also reprimanded by the police.

"I was pretty stupid," said the student. "I cracked a beer and looked up; three cops were walking right toward me. I got a $58 ticket and they made me pour out the 16 beers I had in my backpack."

In addition to under-aged enthusiasm, Fischbuch and his roommate, Adam Sisson, remembered some less pleasant experiences from week one at UVic.

"A couple guys who live on campus were trying to fight us in our own building one night and one girl had her laptop stolen by some guys who were pretending to make friends in her room," said Sisson.

To counteract any potential problems, police made a speech on social safety during a residents' welcome BBQ and the RAs put on a skit regarding issues such as safe sex.

"Like any community, we do deal with people who behave in ways that impact others negatively and as much as we can during the first week, we try to educate students about community living," said Liisa Gibson, manager/residence student affairs. "There are times when more serious incidents necessitate a more firm response, but most of our students are simply settling in and figuring out what sort of choices they want to make now that they live on their own. Our role is to give them as much information as we can about healthy choices."

Campus security confirms that students' choices on campus this year haven't been out of the ordinary in regards to building a sense of community spirit in residence.

The first days of school are not only a fun learning experience, however. While there have been rumours of damage inflicted to residence this year, neither campus security nor the Residence Life Office confirmed this damage on campus or the cost. However, when even a fire alarm is pulled, staff on campus must attend the alarm, cutting productivity and costing students.

DOCK CURRY PHOTO

Prime farmland in the Agricultural Land Reserve may now be more accessible for developers.

Province allows dwindling farmland, says study

by Dock Currie

A UVic study released last month claims that changes made by the Liberal provincial government to the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) are harmful to B.C. farmland.

The ALC was, prior to 2002, comprised of a panel of between five and seven members that would hear and rule on all applications requesting to remove land from the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) in B.C. This system was changed in 2002 into six regionally segmented local panels that heard and ruled on the applications made in their area.

The reserve was established in the '70s to protect the province's diminishing farmland by setting aside almost five million hectares of land. The land is both private and public and is encouraged to be farmed, forested or left vacant.

The study, done by the UVic Environmental Law Clinic, concludes that when the commission turned authority over to local three-person councils in 2002, they made it far easier for developers to remove plots from the ALR.

Their findings echo a similar study, called Forever Farmland, released earlier this year by the David Suzuki Foundation. The Forever Farmland study found that, not only would the changes result in more land being removed from the ALR, but that the best quality farmland would likely dwindle at a much higher rate—the most productive farmland is often in areas where the population is more dense and therefore prime for development.

"Ninety per cent of the land being added to the reserve is in the north of B.C.," said Ann Rowan of the Suzuki Foundation. "The integrity of the commission needs to be such that it assures British Columbians that the best decisions are being made."

The author of the UVic study, law student Ryan Green, wrote a letter last week to the premier based on his findings, requesting that an official inquiry be launched into the detrimental effects that the changes have allegedly had on farmland.

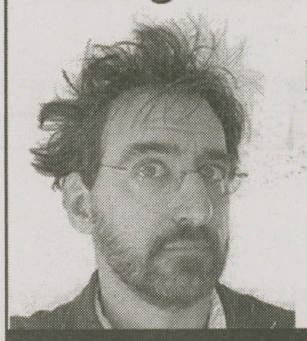
"The value of agricultural lands to present and future generations of British Columbians demands that we have an Agricultural Land Commission that can effectively carry out its statutory mandate to preserve B.C. farm lands," Green wrote in his letter. "At this point, only a public inquiry can ensure that this takes place."

The ALC, however, thinks that Green's findings don't necessarily constitute cause for launching a public inquiry. With only four cases examined, out of thousands during the time frame Green researched, the ALC does not see the UVic study as representative.

"They were obviously handpicked cases that were used for a particular purpose, to criticize the commissions structure or process," said Brian Underhill, director of the ALC, when asked about the UVic study.

"It's not fair for the commission to be asked to comment about gross numbers when those numbers aren't accompanied by any kind of context."

Concerns about the methodology of the UVic study aside, Underhill did say that suggestions made by the Suzuki study were under consideration upon request from the Minister of Agriculture.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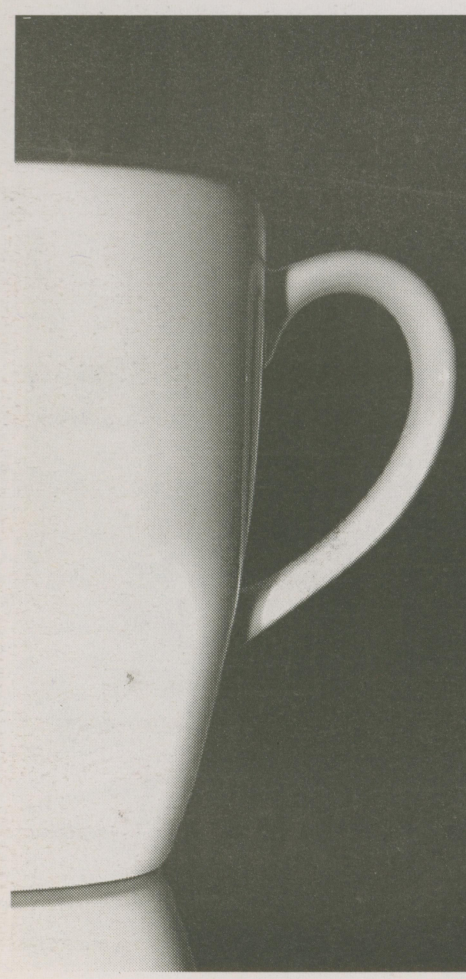
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UVic should lead development in sustainability

New Sustainability Report applauds UVic's efforts, but says more work is needed

by Jessica Smith

The students of the University of Victoria Sustainability Project (UVSP) commend the university's efforts towards a sustainable campus in the recently published Sustainability Report, but say an accurate measure of campus sustainability—an overall vision of a sustainable campus and binding commitments—is still lacking.

The UVSP would like to see UVic "leading the development of our region into a healthy sustainable community," said Naomi Devine, director of the UVSP, "and in order to do that they need that overall vision."

Devine sees sustainability as a current "hot topic" around campus, but one that can be misunderstood as having purely an environmental agenda. She said that sustainability means "an understanding of the world, which encompasses the triple-bottom-line approach. Something isn't sustainable if it doesn't take into account the economic, environmental or social cost or impact of things."

She said the highlights of the Sustainability Report, and of the recent efforts toward a sustainable campus, are the Transportation Demand Management Program (TDM) and the Waste Management Program.

UVic has been composting "behind the scenes" in the cafeterias for years, but hasn't had compost bins, now visible all over campus, for student use until this year.

The TDM program is aimed at reducing traffic on campus by encouraging other means of transportation. The Universal Bus Pass program (a.k.a. U-Pass) and the Employee Bus Pass program, biking amenities, Bike to Work Week and the raise in parking pass prices are all TDM strategies that the Sustainability Report credits for the program's success.

According to the report, parking pass requests decreased by 13 per cent in 2005.

More noticeable additions to the campus are the new buildings and construction. The five buildings now under construction will all employ green building techniques, meaning they'll use less water and energy and are often built with a high proportion of recycled materials.

The $12 million medical sciences building, which opened in 2004, recently achieved the Canada Green Building Council's highest award for environmental and sustainable building. However, five new buildings do increase the campus' ecological impact, a cause for concern in the UVSP.

"Even with the increased efficiencies, the fact is the unsustainability of the university is increasing," said Devine.

She believes that while "we're getting increased efficiency and some key programs" the university needs to measure and control all of the factors that effect sustainability.

"You get that [control] when you have a overall vision or an overall formal policy, which the university does lack," she said.

The UVSP plans to measure the campus' sustainability with a Campus Sustainability Assessment Framework (CSAF), which according to Devine is an individual tool designed to assess a university's level of sustainability.

Now being used across Canada, in institutions such as York University in Toronto, CFAS was designed by Lindsay Cole, a former UVSP director, as her master's project. It uses 172 indicators that allow universities to measure their level of sustainability.

UVic has a good reputation for sustainability, stated Devine but she can't say how UVic compares to other universities in the province. She notes that the University of British Columbia markets itself as a sustainable university but asked, "Are they really? Or are they just capitalizing of what's a very popular topic at the moment?"

Devine said the UVSP supports the steps toward sustainability, but she believes that to find out how sustainable university campus life is and to achieve a sustainable campus, universities need to use an independent tool such as the CSAF, "rather than just relying on anecdotal evidence from each university about how sustainable they are."

WESLEY SCOTT PHOTO

The gardens by the medical sciences building are one of its environmentally friendly features.

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Poll shows large concern for tuition

Survey released by the Canadian Federation of Students reveals discontent with fees

by Micah Luxen

The price of a university education is the subject of a new B.C. poll released during the first week of classes.

The poll, released Sept. 5 by the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), revealed a general concern in the province for government funding of post secondary education.

Ipsos-Reid, a national polling firm, asked a sample size of 800 adult British Columbians what they thought of the government's role in post secondary education.

Shamus Reid, B.C. national executive representative for the CFS, said the public showed a general concern for the present level of tuition fees.

"Tuition is at a level where students from low and middle income backgrounds are now unable to access post-secondary education and are taking on levels of student debt that are far too high," said Reid.

According to the B.C. Reid Express poll, 80 per cent of British Columbians believe tuition fees should be reduced.

In addition, the poll indicated British Columbians are also very concerned that the BC government is avoiding its responsibility to fund post-secondary education adequately.

"For every dollar the government invests in post-secondary education, there is a $4 return through increased taxation revenue and economic growth, yet per-student funding has been cut by five per cent over the last five years," said Reid. "This is terrible public policy, especially at a time where more than 70 per cent of all new jobs require some form of post-secondary education, and we are facing a massive skills shortage in B.C."

Not every student believes the government is showing indifference to students, however.

"The quality of your education depends on how much you put into it," said political science student Allison Thick.

"The profs have a responsibility to deliver an authentic class and we students have the responsibility to prioritize our education."

While the results of the recent poll support increasing government funding, reducing tuition fees and reducing student debt, some believe the reasons behind the poll should be considered.

"When an [interest group] like the Canadian Federation of Students does on opinion survey, they often get the results they want," said political science professor Michael Webb.

Webb also said that "researchers have shown that people always support government spending more money on almost everything, as long as they, the poll respondents, aren't asked whether they are willing to pay higher taxes to finance the increased government spending."

Webb also said that tuition rates bar a minority of students from access to post-secondary education.

"Cutting tuition fees for all students benefits middle-income and higher-income families more than it helps low-income families and students, but there are certain groups in society that still wouldn't go to university and don't go to post secondary for all sorts of social reasons," said Webb and added that the price of tuition is a minor factor in most students' decision to go to university.

Even so, B.C. tuition fees, which, according to Statistics Canada have increased 1.9 per cent this year, are hard for many students to swallow.

"Certainly, anyone who has hung around the Student Union Building at UVic over the last five years could tell you how much the food bank has grown in that time, and those sorts of indicators are being seen around the province," said Reid.

Quality, Webb said, has also improved though as tuition climbs.

"In the last two or three years, the provincial government has actually given a substantial increase in funding," said Webb. "However, it's up to the school to prioritize where that money will go."

In their book, *No Place to Learn*, Tom Pocklington, of the University of Alberta, and Allan Tupper, of the University of British Columbia, explain that oftentimes, undergraduates are shortchanged, while their institutions pour money into research and graduate studies.

Webb said UVic has often made the choice to spread government funding throughout the university to benefit all students and to improve the quality of teaching.

"Since the government has given substantial increases, UVic has added new faculty and the library has really improved over what it was even 10 years ago."

Regardless, CFS is expecting the provincial government to heed the significant concerns of British Columbians, as indicated by the poll.

"The government must work to repair the damage of the last five years that resulted from reducing funding to post-secondary education and more than doubling tuition fees," said Reid. "We are calling on the B.C. government to allocate funding in the next B.C. budget to reduce tuition fees by 10 per cent in September 2007. This represents just 2.5 per cent of this year's budget surplus, but would be an immediate help to students currently just getting by."

B.C. tuition increases

This year's two-per-cent increase will mark the fifth consecutive year that tuition has gone up in British Columbia. This year tuition fees have gone up from an average of $4,867 in 2005 to $4,960 in 2006.

Tuition fee increases in B.C.'s post-secondary institutions have been capped at two per cent since a provincial mandate in 2004.

This year's situation isn't as stark as when the six-year tuition fee freeze was lifted by the B.C. Liberal government in 2002, but it's still the fifth highest in the country behind Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario and Saskatchewan.

Since 2001, tuition has risen 96.3 per cent in B.C., the largest increase in the country.

EarthFest gives students tips for slow living

Festival brings together over 40 organizations to promote environmentally friendly lifestyles

by Vanessa Lundgren

The UVic Sustainability Project (UVSP) recommends that you take a deep breath, eat well and live slowly. They spread the word on slow living and being friendly to the environment with EarthFest, held Sept. 8 at UVic.

The smell of patchouli was in the air, dreadlocks in abundance and beats of African drumming could be heard off in the distance. EarthFest has come and gone but the UVSP hopes its message has not fallen on deaf ears.

In co-operation with the UVic Students' Society (UVSS), EarthFest brought over 40 local organizations for its interactive NGO fair, while also offering a book launch, beer garden, inflatable games, yoga sessions, African drum lessons, live music performances and a mini-market on campus.

VANESSA LUNDGREN IMAGE

Students are encouraged to eat local foods, not Kraft Dinner.

This year, regular UVSS-sponsored activities such as the beer garden, once known as "Cornaval," were added, turning EarthFest into "a bigger, more complete holistic event that includes food, information, all that different stuff," said Jamie Biggar, a UVSP director.

EarthFest's goal, according to Biggar, was to engage the public in showing that "a more sustainable way of living doesn't have to be a less enjoyable way of living. In fact, quite the opposite. Slow living, which is the way of trying to seek more enjoyment from the experience of life not through consuming things, is actually just a better way of living," said Biggar.

Biggar said school-related stress often leads to unhealthy lifestyle choices, one where students are constantly pressed for time and more likely to seek easy solutions such as eating microwaveable meals in front of the TV.

"What we're trying to show is actually that you can just step back, smell the roses a little bit while you're at university and have a much more enjoyable time and still be effective," he said.

UVSP's *Guide for Slow Living* offers four key recommendations for slow living: stop overworking yourself, be active outdoors, volunteer and prepare organic meals with locally-grown ingredients, preferably with friends.

Apple growers Peter and Gini Walsh offered samples of fresh pressed apple juice to passersby. The Walshes regularly participate at the Metchosin Farmers' Market but decided to give EarthFest a try for the first time.

Peter Walsh was satisfied with the exposure provided for his business at his booth. "We like to come into town because we do the farmers' market in Metchosin, and that's a Sunday market and it's local whereas this is city-oriented," he said.

"UVic, in general, has been working towards a more environmentally friendly atmosphere," said Melissa, a UVic bookstore employee, who was raffling off an earth-friendly UVic stationary pack which included a binder made with post-consumer metal and a bio-degradable pen.

Elaine Leckie, Outreach Coordinator for Recycling/Environmental Education for the Capital Regional District, went further in identifying Victoria as becoming environmentally conscious and pointed to the success of the blue box recycling campaign as proof of heightened public awareness but added that it is an ongoing process.

"Are we really ... thinking about what we're taking out of nature and thinking in the long term and in the short term? Do we understand what our ecological footprint is? And can we make it smaller?" asked Leckie.

NORMAN ED BASKERVILLE PHOTO

Mr. Floatie poses with Lynda Ruptash (left) and Kate Covello.

According to Dave Shishkoff, member of the Vegan Association and the Friends of Animals organization, the greater public does not know what the alternatives are.

"It's super important to have these sorts of events," said Shishkoff. "I wish they happened more, we just need people ... to start seeing things and thinking."

Victoria's waste and sewage activist, Mr. Floatie, in a head-to-toe poo costume, clicked his gumboots in dance and song to urge better waste recovery and sewage treatment.

Up to 120 million litres of raw sewage, coming directly out of Victoria, is being pumped into the Strait of Juan de Fuca every day, according to the People Opposed to Outfall Pollution (POOP) website.

In keeping with EarthFest's slow living theme, Mr. Floatie also had a special message to UVic students in urging them to give up their Kraft Dinner and opt for high-fibre alternatives.

"High-five to high fibre," he said.

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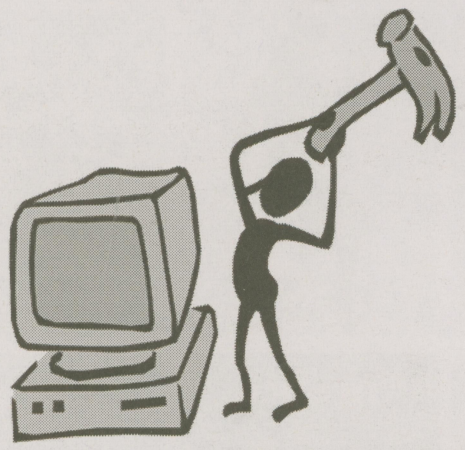
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In the desert,
certain snails can
withdraw into their shells
and sleep for as much as
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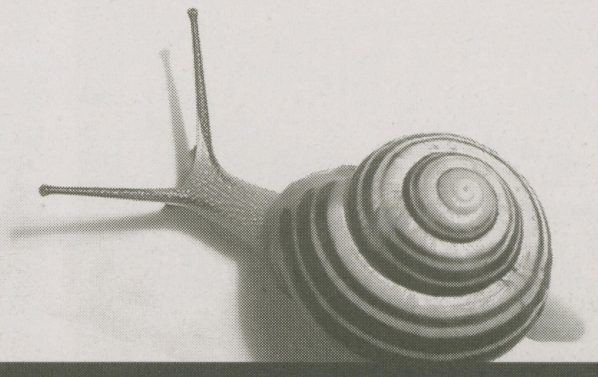
snoozefest
Did you know that ducks at risk of attack can keep half their brain awake while the other half sleeps? Or that the average person slept 10 hours a day before the lightbulb was invented? Chances are, probably not. And chances are, there's a lot more you don't know about sleep. "What you don't know, can't hurt you" doesn't apply here: as a group, 18- to 24-year olds are often more sleep deprived, and suffer more from impaired performance than just about anyone else. Come find out what you else don't know, and what you can do about it.
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McGill study takes a look at HPV and sexual health

Virus causes genital warts, cervical and other cancers

by Misha Warbanski

MONTREAL (CUP) — Hoping to shed some light into the darker areas of the human body, a McGill study is looking into the transmission of Human Papillomavirus (HPV), the virus that can cause genital warts and cervical and other cancers.

The sexually transmitted infection (STI) was in the media spotlight earlier this summer when a vaccine for HPV was approved in Canada.

"It's fantastic news for women's health and sexual health in general," said Ann Burch, a doctoral candidate in McGill University's department of epidemiology. "But even with the approval of the vaccine, it's still important to look at transmission.... One of the vaccines has been approved, but there's still nothing for men."

Burch is the project co-ordinator for the McGill-based HITCH Cohort study. Looking to recruit women aged 18 to 24 and their heterosexual partners, the study will follow the individuals over two years through periodical HPV screening and a comprehensive survey on health and sexual activity.

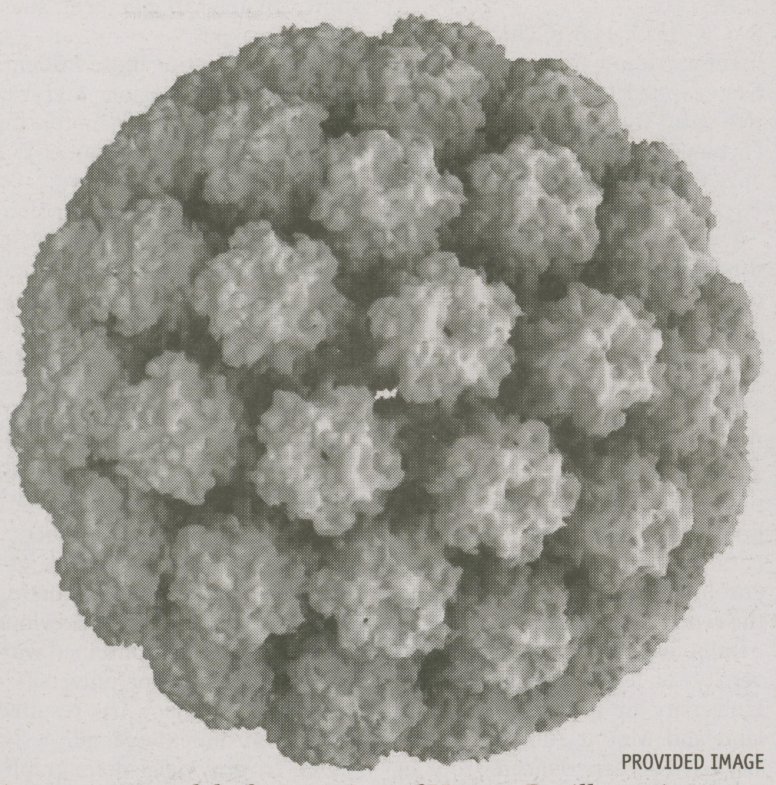
Sold under the name Gardasil, the HPV vaccine is preventative and only effective to those individuals who have never been exposed to specific strains of the virus. "We're targeting 18- to 24-year-olds for our study. Let's face it, many woman at that age have started their sexual lives and have already been exposed," Burch said.

Gardasil prevents the four most common strains of the virus, which are connected to cervical cancer. Meanwhile, the HITCH Cohort study is looking at 37 types of the STI.

Clinical trials for the HPV vaccine have shown positive results, but Burch said, "It is important to have an unvaccinated population tested so you can see the effects of the vaccine."

She raised questions about how long the vaccine is effective and whether or not individuals will require revaccination. The preliminary results of the HITCH study are due in 2008 and Burch said she expects final results in 2010.

Research has shown that HPV is easily transmitted, but Burch said the data mostly focuses on women.



PROVIDED IMAGE

A computer model of one variety of Human Papillomavirus.

"We know it's easily transmitted, but we don't have info from couples," she said. They kept this in mind when designing their study, and through campus clinics are actively recruiting couples from Concordia and McGill.

"Step two is to determine if there is anything unique about the individuals who become infected," Burch said, explaining the health survey given to each participant. "For example condoms: Do they work in preventing transmission? ... HPV can be carried on the external genitals. Can that be transmitted?"

Other questions addressed by the study are whether women on birth control are more or less prone to infection and if male circumcision affects transmission.

While the HITCH study looks at heterosexual couples, Burch hopes the data collected can be helpful in addressing the STI and its complications between same-sex partners.

Any individual, regardless of gender, can contract the disease. In men, rare penile and anal cancers have been linked to HPV. According to Burch, the majority of HPV-related anal cancers are found in homosexual men.

The statistics vary depending on who you ask, but Burch figures somewhere between 50 and 90 per cent of individuals will be exposed to and contract the virus at some point during their lives.

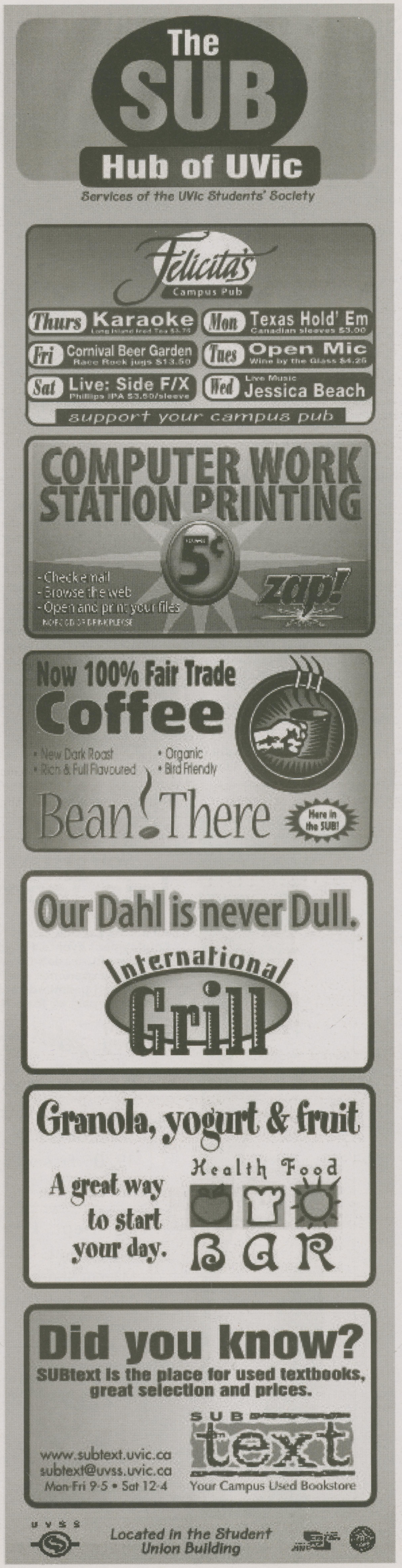
"These are difficult numbers to track down," Burch said. "You'd need a study to follow individuals over a long period of time ... If you look at the instance of infection in young women aged 18 to 24, 30 to 40 per cent have been exposed to the virus in the first three years of sexual activity, and they haven't necessarily had a lot of sexual partners."

Despite its prevalence, HPV is a lesser-known disease. The link between HPV and cervical cancer has only been made in the last 15 years, and Burch speculates that HPV has been seen as more of an inconvenience than a real danger.

"People just thought it was causing genital warts, which, as bothersome as they can be, are no big deal compared to HIV, Chlamydia and so on," said Burch. "HIV can be fatal."

Prevention is key to dealing with HPV and its complications, but the vaccine is just one facet of this.

"I'd like to stress how important Pap testing is," said Burch. "Even with the approval of the vaccine, Pap testing is still as necessary as ever." She said women should make it a part of their regular medical checkups and men should be encouraging their partners to be screened.



Secular humanists begin lecture series

by Sam VanSchie

The Victoria Secular Humanists began the group's monthly free lecture series with UVic Anthropology professor Nicolas Rolland speaking on "how we became humans."

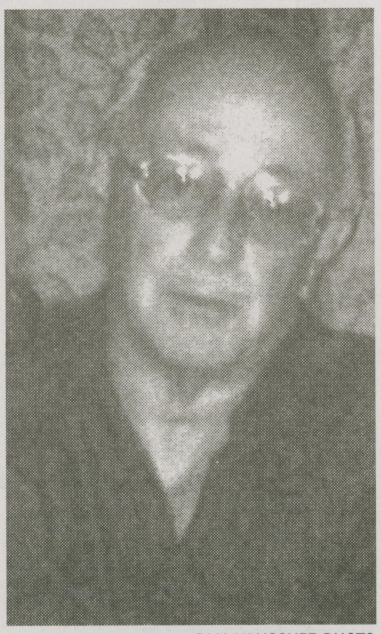
Rolland discussed adaptive strategies and history of the human race from an evolutionary perspective.

"We're a very peculiar kind of primate," said Rolland, explaining that, from a purely biological point of view, our large brain size, habitual bipedalism and opposable thumbs are among the main characteristics that define our species, which evolved about 150,000 years ago in Africa through the process of natural selection.

But, technology and culture also shape our evolution, an aspect often pushed aside in widely accepted naturalistic theory, Rolland notes.

"That's my beef," said the professor, who claims that the traditional approach is too simplistic for complex culture using creatures like ourselves. Instead, he believes that bio-cultural evolution, which focuses on the mutual interaction between biology and culture or technology, is a more relevant framework through which to understand our past.

Such understanding is a priority to the Victoria Secular Humanists, who meet Sundays at 10:30 a.m. at Swans restaurant for humanist discussions over breakfast or at the same time at the Collard Room at Swans for their monthly lectures.



SAM VANSCHIE PHOTO

Professor Nicolas Rolland.

Member Ron Tomlinson said the meetings occurring during regular church time is just coincidental and they are not a religious group, nor are they trying to convert people. Though he does make mention of how he feels like a Jehovah's Witness as he regularly carries secular humanist publications to hand out to people that want to know more about the movement.

"We believe in common moral decencies," said Tomlinson, summing up what humanism is all about, "we think and live independently without the restraints of religion."

Declining enrolment plagues Atlantic universities

Lack of students and interest contribute to drop

by William Wolfe-Wylie

SACKVILLE, N.B. (CUP) — Enrolment at Mount Allison University has dropped for a third consecutive year. This year's total student enrolment is currently estimated at 2,060 students, down more than 10 per cent from 2003.

It's a trend that is being seen throughout Atlantic Canada. A report from the Association of Atlantic Universities confirms that enrolment in the area has been declining steadily since 2003.

The demographics of the region (how many potential students actually exist) along with participation rates (how many of those potential students actually attend) combine to create the dropping enrolment numbers, according to the report.

Dalhousie University, the University of New Brunswick, the University of Prince Edward Island and Mount Allison University have all experienced drops in enrolment between one and 10 per cent in the past five years.

But while a number of universities are feeling the effects of dropping enrolment, others are reaping the benefits of low tuition and innovative marketing as students become aware that universities really are fighting for their education dollars.

At Memorial University of Newfoundland, for example, which boasts the region's lowest tuition fees ($2,550 for full-time undergrads), enrolment has risen by approximately 10 per cent since 1999.

"We are attracting more students from the Atlantic region," said Ivan Muzychka, a spokesman for the university. "Our low tuition is a factor."

Saint Mary's University in Halifax, which sits in the middle of the pack in terms of tuition fees, has also experienced an increase in enrolment in the past few years. It has 31,000 students registered this year, up from 25,500 students in 1998.

Among those schools experiencing a drop in enrolment, a number of theories have emerged to explain the lower student numbers.

Among them is that there are simply fewer students graduating from high school than in previous years and that this, combined with the same number of universities competing for them, has resulted in lower enrolment over all.

"Due to provincial demographic challenges and an increasing competitive international market, registrars have forecasted a slight decrease in enrolment on each campus in 2006-07 and a continuation of similar declines in the near future," stated the University of New Brunswick's 2006-2007 budget outline.

"Our enrolment is probably under pressure from smaller graduating classes in Nova Scotia," said Scott Roberts, a spokesman for Acadia University, where enrolment has been in flux since the late 1990s.

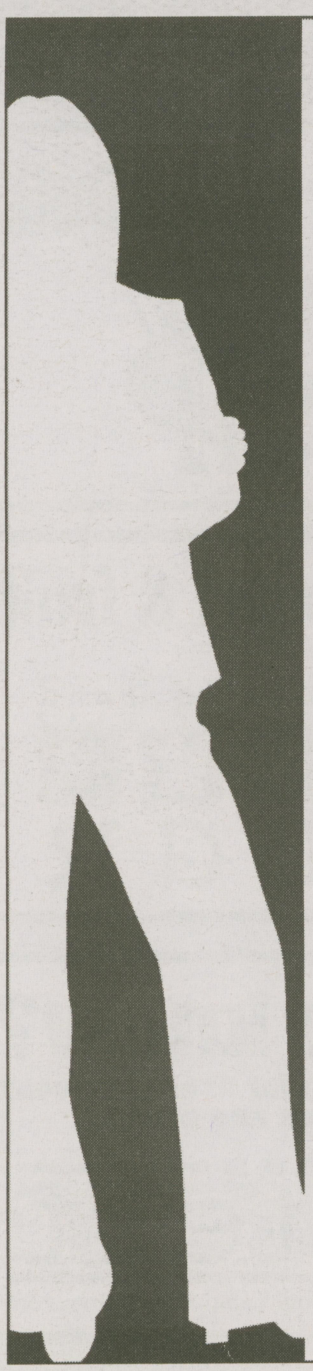
Acadia University's 2005-06 enrolment was the lowest in six years. In the previous five years it had dropped by approximately 11.3 per cent, according to a senate report from May. Acadia's tuition fees, at just over $8,000 for full-time undergraduate studies, are the highest in the region.

As the phenomenon progresses, however, universities are developing their own strategies to try and balance their budgets with declining revenues from both provincial and student sources.

Acadia University has created a new position, the office of enrolment management, which aims to increase international student enrolment to 15 per cent of the total student body (international students are defined as those not from Canada or the United States) and focus on domestic recruiting in Nova Scotia, Alberta and B.C.

Mount Allison University has designated one international recruiter to tour Southeast Asia and provided a travel budget of $100,000 to recruit students from that area.

But according to the report from the Association of Atlantic Universities, the numbers for the coming years don't look any more encouraging. Demographic projections show the number of people aged 18 to 24 in all four Atlantic provinces will continue to decline until at least 2014.



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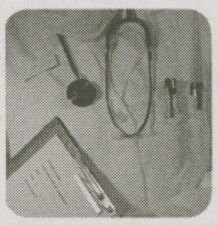

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UVSS advocacy groups kick off the school year

Pride, Students of Colour Collective and others aim to help all students

by Kim Magi

This September the UVSS is busy and campus advocacy groups are brimming with fresh ideas to entice new and returning students. Pride Collective, Students of Colour Collective, the Women's Centre, the Native Student Union and the food bank all have plans this year to get more students involved with their organizations.

PRIDE

UVic Pride represents "all people who are queer, queer-positive, gender-variant and/or intersex," according to their website. Pride strives to raise awareness about queer-specific issues, and accommodate students who are in need of a safe space to go and talk to someone, or just hang out in.

Continuing this fall are the coffee house meetings, which take place at Serious Coffee on the corner of Yates and Broad Street. The first September session will be on Sept. 22 from 7:30 p.m. until about 9 p.m. Although their next collective meeting is still in the planning stages, their table will be set up at Clubs Day.

SOCC

Students of Colour Collective's (SOCC) ultimate goal is to help racialized minorities achieve power and leadership in Canada by supporting and empowering each other. On Sept. 20, SOCC will kick off their Art is Life, Is Resistance campaign. The campaign includes a series of four workshops, the first being Comics and Illustration for Revolution. Besides teaching students how to make their own, the workshop will also show how comics relate to politics, how they influenced us in the past and why they will in the future.

Other workshops will include topics such as spoken word and creative writing, independent filmmaking and the basics of mixing and tips on DJ-ing. Although these events are put on by SOCC, anyone is welcome.

SOCC also plans to release their bi-annual publication, *Pulse!*, which will include items from Art Is Life, Is Resistance, as well as other material for those interested in creating positive social change.

A final event SOCC has planned for the future is their film festival, which occurs in November and again in February. More information will be available as the date approaches.

Women's Centre

Since 1981, the Women's Centre has been a friendly space for any self-identified women to visit. The main goal of the Women's Centre this year is to gain better representation, especially in the government. That's why West Coast Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF) are traveling from Vancouver this year to, in partner with the Women's Centre, help women understand how different government bodies work, how to identify systemic discrimination, and teach women about the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, human rights law, public legal education and law reform. More events will be planned throughout the year, including the printing of their publication, *Thirdspace*, which is published at least four times a year, and fun activities, such as the crocheting workshop in October.

NSU

The Native Students' Union (NSU) strives to empower students so that they benefit from UVic's technical and academic learning while also maintaining strong cultural and spiritual ties with other First Nations students.

Although the collective hasn't organized their first meeting of the year yet, when they do, they will be discussing upcoming events, and what everyone wants to achieve through participating in the NSU. For now they hold an open invitation to the annual Welcoming Feast, which will take place on Sept. 14 at Vertigo.

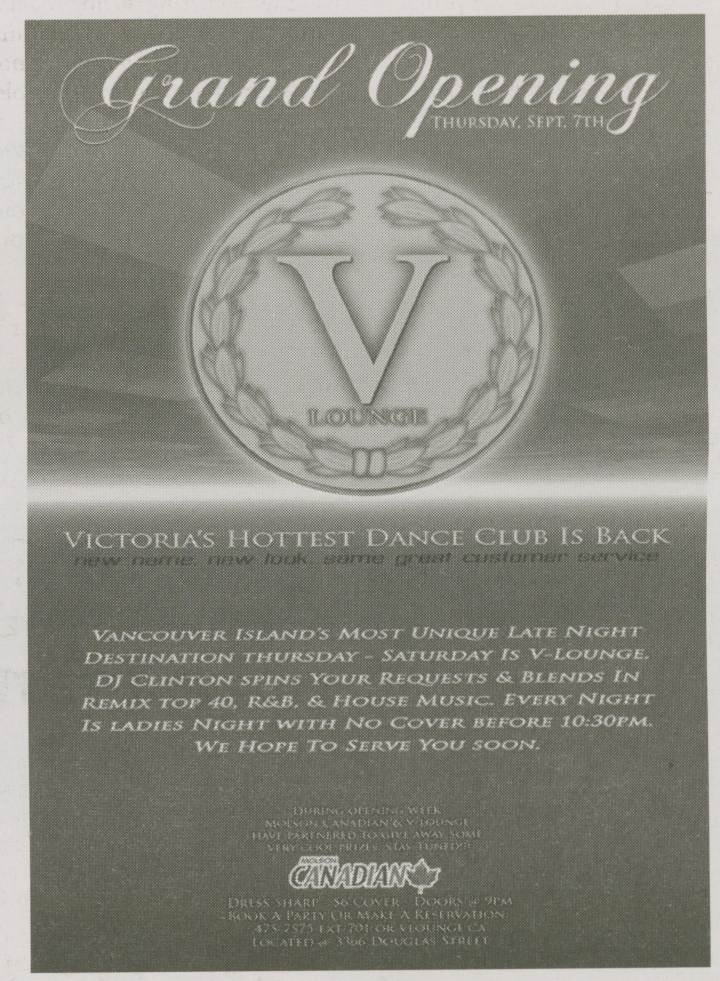
Food Bank

The food bank, run by the whole students' society, is still in the midst of getting their schedule put together, so often there is no one manning the room. However, the services are still available by contacting Mark Chandler at the Resource Centre in the Student Union Building, appointments can be made to pick up one hamper (for a single person) or two hampers (for one person with a dependent or child).

The program is for students who are having their budget broken with tuition and other costs. It is important to remember that the services are confidential and available for all UVic students. The food bank is always in need of donations. For those who wish to donate, unopened food can be dropped off in the Resource Centre.

DOCK CURRIE PHOTO

The Students of Colour Collective's office is located in the Student Union Building, room B020.



Wikipedia a poor substitute for real research

Encyclopedia research 'tells your teacher that you didn't put the effort in,' online spokesman says

by Will Keats-Osborn

VANCOUVER (CUP) — Although Wikipedia continues to be a popular resource for students, a great deal of contention exists over its credibility and its propriety as an academic resource.

Wikipedia is an online encyclopedia that uses an unusual selection process to choose its authors: instead of seeking out experts to write and fact-check its articles, Wikipedia allows any visitor to the website to write entries and make changes to existing ones.

The site received a great deal of positive publicity last winter when a study published in *Nature* found that the accuracy of Wikipedia is comparable to that of the Encyclopedia Britannica. Out of 42 entries, the study found that the average Wikipedia article contained four inaccuracies, while the average Britannica article contained three.

Wayne Saewyc, a spokesman for Wikipedia, said the results of *Nature*'s study may have been skewed in their favour. He said that Nature selected only Wikipedia's science articles for the study, which tend to be more in-depth and accurate than those of the arts, politics or the humanities.

"We got lucky," he said.

While conventional encyclopedias balance the fact-checking of all their articles, often the accuracy of a Wikipedia article depends on the popularity of the topic, which influences the number of people viewing the article and the number of potential editors.

In addition, political articles are more likely to be tampered with. Even though it is statistically very rare, a number of articles regarding American senators and congressmen were tampered with by both political parties, in order to introduce particular biases or emphases into the article.

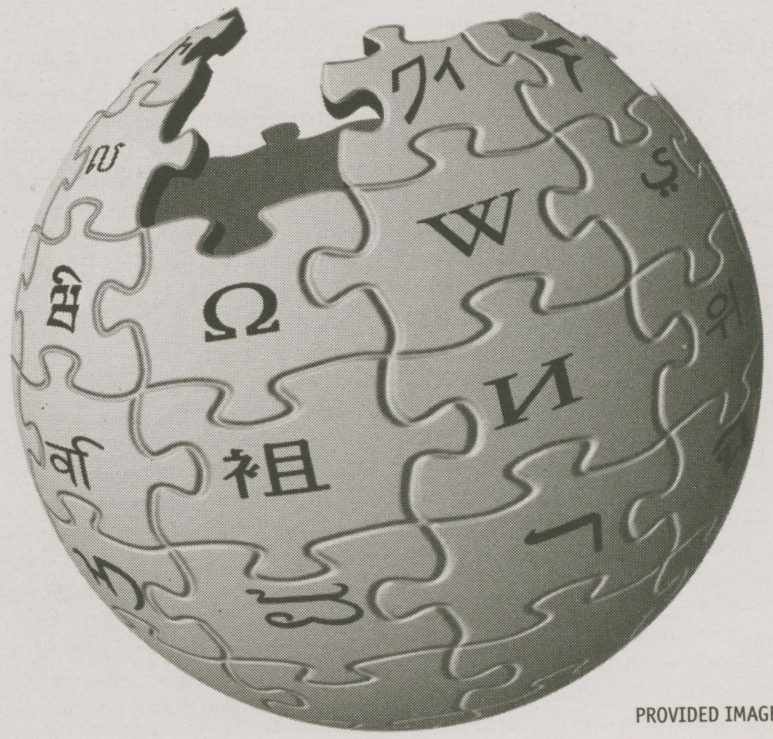
"In general, our prose is not as good, and our factuality is not as good," said Saewyc, comparing Wikipedia to conventional encyclopedias.

The main advantage Wikipedia has over conventional encyclopedias is the speed with which errors can be corrected.

"It's usually fixed within minutes of coming up in a press release," Saewyc said.

Saewyc emphasized that Wikipedia should only be the first step in doing research for a paper.

"Wikipedia is not authoritative, but it's a good place to start," he said. "Don't try to cite any encyclopedia if you want to get a good grade. Any encyclopedia is not appropriate for good research, and it just tells your teacher that you didn't put the effort in."



PROVIDED IMAGE

Like the creators of Wikipedia, many professors stress caution when using Wikipedia as an academic resource.

Richard Rosenberg, professor emeritus in the University of British Columbia's computer science department, said that the biggest reason to read Wikipedia critically is that it is impossible to tell what the authors' backgrounds are, or what slant or bias they are presenting in their article. The authors of Wikipedia's entries can remain entirely anonymous, along with their biases and personal agendas.

"I think it is a valuable resource," Rosenberg said, likening Wikipedia to any other encyclopedia. "But I think students should be cautious. They should use it in a careful way as an introduction to a topic, and it should lead to other resources that are more reliable."

Wikipedia was created in 2001, now has almost four million articles in 100 languages, and is the 16th most visited website on the Internet, according to the online ranking facility Alexa.

NEWS BRIEFS

UVSS committees still open

Several motions put forward at this semester's inaugural University of Victoria of Students' Society (UVSS) board meeting opened nominations for UVic students to volunteer for committees. No committee received nominations and so the Armed with Understanding, Communications, Political Action, Special Events, Student Services, Faculty of Social Sciences Curriculum, Faculty of Social Sciences Awards, and the Senate Committee on Teaching and Learning remain vacant. Nominations will be accepted at the next board meeting, September 25.

UVSS shouldn't push low tuition

UVSS board member Keenan Hamm put forth a motion during the Sept. 11 board meeting asking that the UVSS not spend money on or "push" lowering tuition. The motion failed after a lengthy discussion on whether or not being in favour of lowering tuition was representative. Both sides agreed, however, that the costs devoted to lowering tuition were negligible. The cost for this year so far has been roughly $100 on slogan-laden buttons.

Thousands on Felicita's chairs

The UVSS approved up to $6,000 from their capital fund to purchase replacement chairs for Felicita's during their most recent board meeting. The chairs, however, had already been purchased. Though the motion did pass, but if it had failed then the cost would have been borne elsewhere in the UVSS's operating budget.

City filters through storm water

The City of Victoria has installed a third storm-water filtration unit near Gorge Road East to stem the flow of dangerous contaminants into the harbour and, from there, into the waterways surrounding Victoria. The area, one of three identified by the Capital Regional District, had high levels of oils, chemicals, sands and silts escaping out into the harbour, but the filtration unit is expected to stem the pollution. The units are part of the $2.6 million Victoria Harbour Environmental Protection Program.

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Beer as unique as the brewmasters making it

Great Canadian Beer Festival showcases various blends of micro-brewery beer

by Steve Carey

This year, the Great Canadian Beer Festival's football-sized field at Royal Athletic Park was filled with 27 B.C. brewers, six from outside the province, eight U.S. brewers and two Belgians.

With estimated guest counts at 2,500 on Friday and 4,000 on Saturday, festival director John Rowling said this is the largest craft-only beer festival in Canada.

In the late 1960s, big breweries all over the world started loading their beer with carbon dioxide. This invention led to the age of big fizz and bland beer.

"They filtered everything out of it so it would never go bad. This was the end of the hand pump, pulling beer by hand, and the start of the CO_2 mega-fizz," said Rowling.

The Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) was created when Rowling and three other men sick of drinking mega-brewery beer visited Ireland and were introduced to regional breweries that produced traditional cellar-temperature ales. CAMRA is a consumer advocacy group promoting natural fermentation of beer with natural ingredients, rather than the cornstarch and carbon dioxide additive beers that the big breweries produce.

"The use of real malt is what characterizes craft beer. It's made from malted barley or malted wheat," said Charles Finkel, of The Pike Brewing Company in Seattle, Washington. "By contrast, a Molson or Labatt would be made with half malt, and half of corn syrup, rice, or filler, designed to have no flavour, no taste, no nutritional value, no character, and the only function is that it's cheaper than malt and it ferments into alcohol."

The brewmaster is the chef of the beer kitchen, getting ingredients specific to the recipe for the beer they're trying to create. By roasting the hops, different flavours can be brought out such as chocolate, caramel and espresso. By modifying the yeast, banana and clove flavours can be introduced.

Each attendee was greeted at the door with a four ounce plastic glass and a map of the massive festival. Beer recommendations came from everywhere and everyone's tastes were different. Some hated the lemon flavouring, while some loved it.

Chris Gress, brewmaster for the Craig Street Brewing Co. in Duncan, and Terry Schoffer, brewmaster for Cannery Brewing Company in Penticton, both started making beer in their backyards. Gress got into it from his interest in chemistry, while Schoffer wanted to make all the quality beer he could drink.

Craft brewery beer is in demand. At the 14-month-old Craig Street Brew Pub, Gress goes through 500 litres of their Cowichan Bay Lager a week.

Craft breweries often sell growlers, reusable ceramic carrying jugs for beer, to be filled at the brewery. Some have bottled their beer, some sell mini-casks, others have taken to canning it.

Much of the beer served at the festival was dispensed from casks: gravity fed mini-kegs. These contained a mixture of regular brewery beer and unfermented beer with more yeast and extra hops, to allow it to rework to add body, potency and flavour to the drink.

According to Rowling, beer is measured in IBUs: International Bittering Units. Most mega-breweries ring in at seven IBUs, which is why their beer is so easy to drink. A craft beer, such as the Cowichan Bay Lager, would run about 20 IBUs. The Arrogant Bastard by Stone Brewing in California runs a mouth-puckering 100 IBUs.

"To make it drinkable, they balance it with a huge amount of malt. It's a great experience for the aficionado," said Rowling.

A standout was Crannóg Ales, the only organic brewery in Western Canada. Based in Sorrento on a 10-acre farm, they brew non-pasteurized, unfiltered ales using hard water in the Irish tradition. They produce all of the hops they use on their own farm, and are currently on the lookout for more organic hop producers.

Any waste from the integrated farm and brewery goes back into the farm in some way; the livestock can be fed from the brewery, the farm provides hops and the livestock provide fertilizer. Water comes from a well fed by mountain fed springs.

LINLEY FAULKNER PHOTO

Rebecca Kneen (right) from Crannóg Ales serves organic beer at the festival.

"Different kinds of hops will carry different flavours," said Crannóg's Rebecca Kneen.

Exposing people to great beer is what the Great Canadian Beer Festival is all about. Each of the 130 different beers was brewed up to the high standards of the CAMRA code, offering unique beers to the taster.

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Editorial

Men are smarter than women

Thought that would get your attention.

A new study headed by The University of Western Ontario's John Philippe Rushton has concluded that the reason women face a "glass ceiling" in the work place is simply because they are less smart than men.

Rushton's findings, which were released in the September issue of the journal *Intelligence* (Rushton also happens to sit on the publication's editorial board), have substantiated what men worldwide claim to have known all along.

A controversial scholar, Rushton has been researching what he smugly calls "truths" about humans that no one likes to hear. You might remember his name from your psychology 101 class when your teacher told you about his analysis of how race affects intelligence. Your professor probably used Rushton's study as an example of how variables can change the outcome of an experiment, and can be used to manipulate the results. Your professor was not impressed by Rushton's methods.

Rushton (whose Ratemyprofessors.com score is quite poor) has made a career out of "proving" stereotypes. He's the psychologist who found that Asians are more intelligent than white people and white people are more intelligent than black people—adding ammo to many a racist's sawed-off shotgun. Among Rushton's other solid conclusions are that AIDS is a problem in Africa because black people have insatiable libidos and that men's brains weigh more than women's.

His latest finding counters popular scientific opinion that there is no difference in intelligence between genders, despite a possible variation in brain size. The conclusion was reached by giving 100,000 17- and 18-year-olds the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), although whether 17- and 18-year-olds would yield the same result as middle-aged men and women was not of any importance.

Also suspiciously lacking from Rushton's report was any acknowledgement that gender affects variables which alter how someone is taught, not just how smart he or she is. Boys often get more attention in school than girls and are encouraged to excel in math and science, whereas girls are encouraged to paint their nails and seek male attention, often by playing dumb and asking boys for help with their math homework.

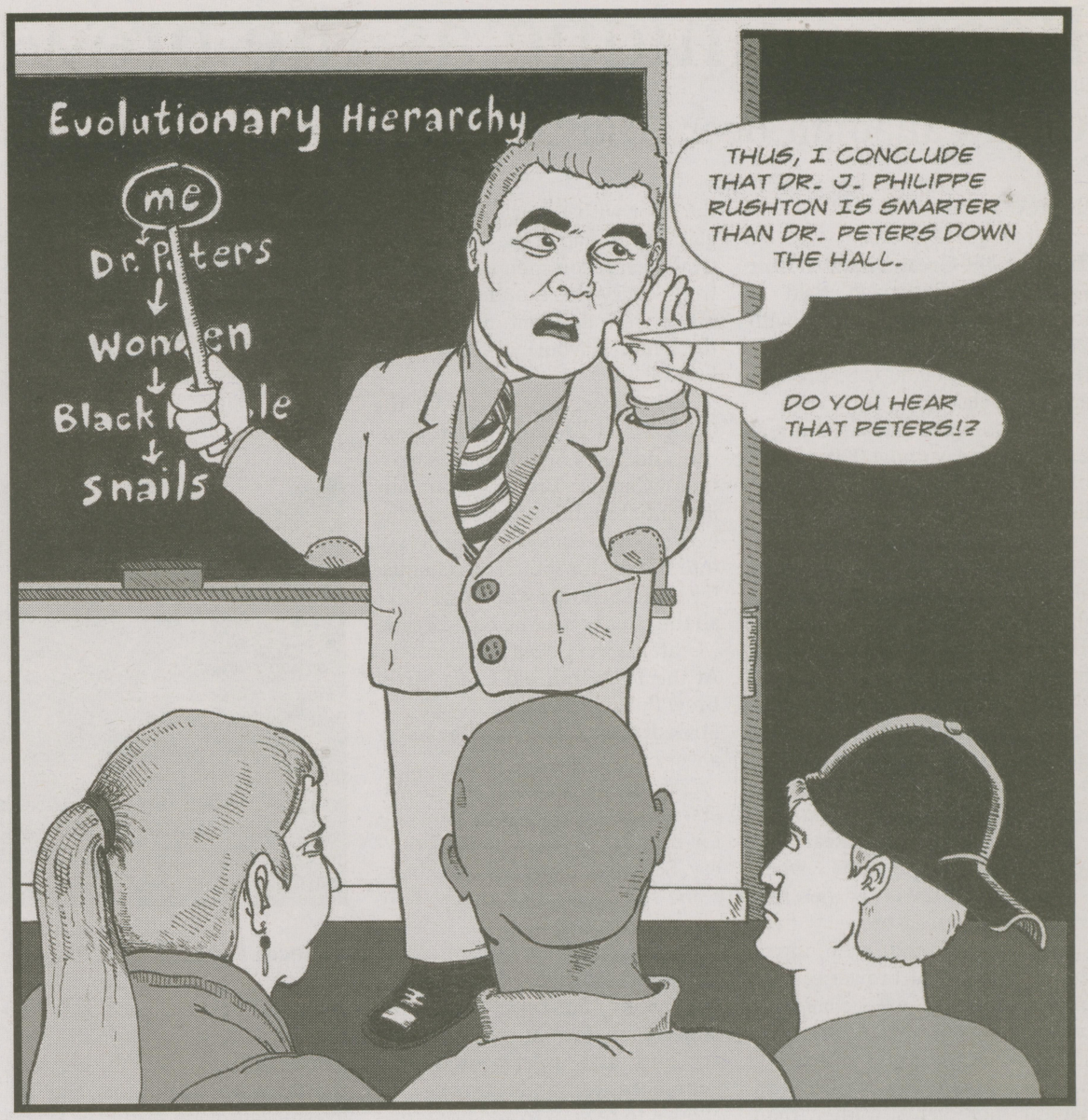
It's curious that Rushton's findings also tend to prove that it's men like him who are superior. Although he isn't Asian, he's not black either.

Obviously Rushton is smart enough to have made a name for himself in the psychology field by making brash announcements in the name of scientific truth.

So maybe he's right about women, maybe not. It's not really the point. Most sane people will have a chuckle after hearing about the study. What's more important is that there is an institution in this country that is willing to heap out cash for a media-happy psychologist (note: not a psychiatrist) to belittle advancements that rights activists have worked hard to achieve.

While Rushton's time at Western (he's been there since the late '70s) has been mired by the premier of Ontario asking for his resignation (which could not be given), and an "unsatisfactory" grade on an merit evaluation (which Rushton appealed and won), the professor is still sullying up the institution's name.

And it's not a surprise really; The University of Western Ontario is headed by a man.



CHRIS & TIM SHEAFF GRAPHIC

The hypocrisy of orientation

A new student deals with dorm life

by William Bennett

The inauguration of our unguided lives started at the beginning of the month with pushing from parents, farewells and greetings from old and new friends and the movement of stuff from our homes, to our cars, to our dorms. It smelled like freedom.

Upon move-in day we desperately tried to escape the embarrassment of being seen with our parental guardians. After all, we are adults now and we longed to escape and figure out what the campus has to offer.

For the first time, we are able to make choices on our welfare, free of angry stares from across the dining room table. We are finally liberated! Freshman life begins, but first comes a quick orientation presented by UVic.

I've got mixed feelings on orientation. While the resident staff members are helpful and friendly, the information they gave (besides the tours) was rather pointless. Do we need to be told not to light a fire in our buildings? No, we don't, but thanks for the tip. Do we need to be told not to kick the shit out of our neighbor? Again, no. (But I bet that some dumb ass will do one or the other and get the authorities involved.)

Give us some credit please. Despite the bewildered looks on our faces as we try to find our classes, we can't be that dumb. Just bear with us as we get used to not having parental figures breathing down our necks about the dangers of alcohol, junk food and whatever else they can think of. So let the party begin ... until lockdown anyway.

When lockdown was first mentioned, I thought a group of convicts had robbed a bank and were coming to campus for some good times. But, nope, no such luck. Lockdown is actually an unpleasant situation occurring after being given control of our own lives, but are then grounded, so to speak, from having guests over. It was time of bonding where we are largely stuck inside our dorms with strangers, albeit relatively friendly strangers. The unfortunate part was that it was at the very end of summer when the last of the non-school partying could take place.

It is a strange time that we now live in, a mix between becoming a full-fledged adult and being watched over by older students. You're allowed to have friends over, but no more than five (self included). You are allowed to have a bigger engagement, but you have to be sober. Enjoy your "freedom."

Not that I am actually complaining, so far residence life has been pretty cool. But we are awkwardly stuck between two ideas without meeting the requirements of either of them. On the one hand, the residence staff is there to help us, but they also guide us whether we want it or not. Granted, rules are far more lenient than before residence, at least they are for me. So maybe we are finally liberated, or maybe we aren't. That's your choice.

LETTER

This letter is in response to the letter, "Sustainability begins at home" in the Sept. 7th issue.

The author of "Sustainability begins at home" seems to imply that there is a strict ratio between the number of children we have and the environmental impact we make. From this she concludes that environmental interests morally require us to have as few children as possible, and she reproaches David Suzuki for failing to do so. However, although this equation may in fact be true in certain heavily overpopulated regions of the world, Canada's situation is such that its population would be decreasing if it weren't for immigration.

In Canada I would argue that the solution is not to curtail birth rates, but to encourage an environmentally-friendly culture. This does not merely mean living "frugally" as the author claims, it means consuming ethically appropriate products, working to change minds, generally attempting to make a difference in the world, and supporting others with the same mindset. Suzuki's children may very well be able to change the world for the better.

Overpopulation is certainly an important and alarming issue, but it is a problem that should be addressed with regard for the particular variables in a particular society. The author's comments do not consider everything relevant to this complex issue; they ignore the richness that can be attained through human relationships and they scorn the idea that a human can have a positive impact on the world. Such thinking has the danger of descending into eco-fascist arguments which promote the sacrificing of human rights and lives in the name of the environment.

-Scott Nicholson

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Federal indecision plagues safe injection site

by Michelle Martin

It's been a gloomy month for local safe injection site advocates.

September kicked off with Health Canada refusing to "entertain" applications for the establishment of new safe injection sites until the end of 2007.

This decision, which directly effects Victoria's pending application for its own safe injection site, emerged when the Conservative government addressed the future of Insite, Vancouver's safe injection site that was established as a pilot project in 2003.

Insite was born when Health Canada, under the Liberal government, granted the site operators a three-year exemption from the federal drug laws and $500,000 annually in operational costs; however, with the exemption ending mid-September, the Conservatives were forced to take a stand on this controversial issue.

A few weeks before the big deadline, they announced their indecision.

They'll decide the future of Insite by Dec. 31, 2007, said a press release, after more research examines how "supervised injection sites affect crime, prevention and treatment." In the meantime, it's business as usual at Insite, where staff supervises about 600 injection drug users daily as well as refer them to councilors and other social services.

The government's unwillingness to address the issue head-on raises a heated question.

Are the Conservatives more concerned with maintaining political support among socially conservative voters or with caressing a network of support for society's most vulnerable?

Stephen Harper is no doubt well aware that some right-wing voters would be appalled if the Conservatives were to take a progressive approach to substance abuse—even if piles of existing research proved its benefits—by continuing to support Insite and green lighting Victoria's application.

Harper is also well aware that merely entering the debate would push the party into the tedious political playground of ethics and morals.

The Health Canada press release held a sober tone and strategically avoided citing any safe injection site benefit.

"Do safe injection sites contribute to lowering drug use and fighting addiction? Right now the only thing the research to date has proven conclusively is drug addicts need more help to get off drugs," said Health Minister Tony Clement in the release.

Also missing from the release were statements pertaining to safe injection sites' roles as a first stop on the road to treatment as well as their part in reducing the spread of blood-borne infections such as HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C.

Its tone countered an RCMP report released last month—also set to influence the safe injection site decision—that noted Insite didn't increase crime in the area or attract drug dealers or users from other jurisdictions.

The City of Victoria, the Vancouver Island Health Authority and the University of Victoria are currently collaborating on a study slated to accompany Victoria's application for a Health Canada exemption.

While this local study is being painted in a supportive framework, Health Canada will be conducting its own research and working on a national drug strategy.

It sounds to me like the Conservatives are digging for a reason to say, "No."

It's been a slow process to get to the momentum going for a safe injection site locally. Hopefully, the momentum will be maintained despite the roadblocks in the interim.

Iran: Why not just invade them?

by Clarke Ries

If you take the ruckus over Iranian nuclear power seriously, you're building a fallout shelter as you read this. My advice? Use your copy of the *Martlet* as insulation. Nuclear winters can get chilly.

For those who aren't sure whether to spend the day in the mall or a bunker, take your chances with McDonald's. The likelihood of either America or Iran launching anything more hurtful than words approaches zero, no matter how much the hawks on both sides froth at the mouth. The logistics of shutting down Iran are daunting.

As we're seeing right now, going through the UN is about as fruitless as an orchard after a drought. Russia and China have no problem with Iranian nukes, and both have plenty to gain by trading with them. Any sanctions or military measures passed against Iran will be vetoed fast enough to cause a sonic boom.

The bribe of light-water reactors from Europe didn't work either. Nuclear power is a matter of national pride, and there isn't any reason to compromise.

This leaves America with the military option, which is really more of a punch line than a solution following the disaster formerly known as the Second Gulf War. A "quick" air strike against Iranian nuclear facilities would have to contend with strings of radar installations, multiple surface-to-air missile sites and a formidable Iranian air force.

Iran can be counted on to counterattack following any provocation, right into the occupying force holding in next-door neighbour Iraq.

The Iraqi army is non-functional and the American army already has its hands full. Casualties would be in the thousands on both sides, and Iraq, already a lost cause, would descend completely into chaos.

The last, simplest and most Bushian option is, "Why not just invade?" For those hawks who can ask this with a straight face, here's the answer: American economists have calculated that conservatively, the Iraq war will cost the United States $1 trillion. Some estimates are as high as $2 trillion. America's farmers do not currently grow money trees, but when they do I'm sure occupying Iran will become a viable strategic option.

This leaves the riddle that every strategist in Washington is trying to solve as we speak. Iran wants nukes. How to stop them? The answer is, short of World War III, it can't be done. And there's nothing wrong with that.

Iran's nuclear program was under wraps voluntarily for years. Their conventional military power is already enough to make them the biggest kid on the block. There was previously no need or desire for the expensive (politically and otherwise) process of acquiring nuclear weapons

Then came Bush's White House and the era of cowboy diplomacy and Iran found itself on an "Axis of Evil." Soon they had been villainized, condescended to, and ultimately frightened witless when Iraq, one border away, another Arab nation and a frat brother in the Axis of Cartoonish Generalizations, was invaded without provocation. Update: still no weapons of mass destruction. Check back tomorrow.

Under the circumstances, is it a surprise Iran's powers that be decided they needed a better insurance policy?

No one in their right mind attacks a country with nukes, or for that matter condescends to them. American foreign policy gurus know it, and recognize that a nuclear Iran can't be bullied into doing anything it doesn't want to. Arab-controlled nuclear weapons mean a massive shift in power in the Middle East, and it's what's driving Bush's increasingly desperate attempts to shut down Iran's nuclear ambitions.

Freedom needs oppression to exist

by Kim Armstrong

It started with a bumper sticker, one of those sappy, "I care about the world" slogans. It said something about no one being free while others are oppressed. The concept of freedom needs oppression to exist. If everyone is free then no one is, because there is no longer a need for "freedom" to exist.

This is really more philosophy than anything else, but it's important. The flip side of this rather tarnished theoretical coin is that if you want to uphold freedom, you need oppression to exist. If it doesn't exist to suit your purpose, then you may just have to create some. Regimes across the globe and across the ages have ridden this bloody wave to glory time and time again.

But surfing to freedom on the suffering of others should not be an acceptable route to success. It is too easy to use the excuse of past atrocities as a reason to slip the boot in and kick one's opponent in the groin as he's brought down.

Let us take the 1994 Rwandan genocide. Resentment stemming from Belgian colonization resulted in over 800,000 Tutsis (the Belgians' favoured African race), being killed in a few short months by the Hutus, Belgian choice number two. Let's ignore the fact that this had nothing to do with Tutsis themselves, and that Belgian occupation was far enough in the past that any Tutsis under the age of 40 weren't alive during the Belgian occupation.

Then there is our freedom-, independence-, and mother's-apple-pie-lovin' neighbor to the south, the good old U.S. of A. While America bashing is old hat, it is true that in the name of freedom and democracy, the wealthy and comparatively enlightened country has done some bad, bad things.

There's the fighting in Iraq. The fighting in Afghanistan. Abu Ghraib. Guantanamo. Propping up despotic (yet pro-American regimes) over more humane (but anti-Western) leaders. In the name of "freedom" throughout the world, the United States has oppressed too many.

My personal favourite example, though, was in the news recently. George Jr. announced the existence of secret prisons holding top terrorist suspects including the suspected mastermind of the Sept. 11 bombings.

Wait just one minute.

I'm fairly certain that they haven't caught bin Ladin, the acknowledged driving force behind the twin tower bombings and the reason there have been Western troops on the ground in Afghanistan for the past five years. I don't think I missed that headline. So correct me if I'm wrong, but doesn't that simple and seemingly semi-innocent statement completely invalidate all our military efforts over the past half-decade, and justify the fears of those who feel that American involvement in the Middle East is inappropriate and motivated by something other than humanitarian concern?

Even so, the concept of fighting freedom leaves me nervous. I've been conditioned all my life to think that freedom is a good thing, a worthy goal, something to fight for. Maybe that's the problem. The word "freedom" shouldn't be a call to war. The draft dodgers of the '70s had the right idea when they refused to fight a bloody and unjustified war in the name of peace.

So in the face of all the challenges of this bloody modern world, we must rally together to oppose this conceptual construct that condones such brutal actions in its name. Fight the existence of oppression, but fight freedom too, for when one does not exist there is no longer a need for the other. It's a worthy cause, perhaps even deserving of a bumper sticker.

Would you buy it?

Homeless

Finding the real faces behind the city

by Benjamin Moore

To anyone who's managed the trek from the UVic campus to downtown Victoria, news on the issue of homelessness in our fair city may seem hardly news at all. That there are people without homes is a fact which shouldn't surprise anyone. That many of them suffer from treatable health problems, or that the vast majority, though recipients of some form of help, find it far from adequate, is nothing new.

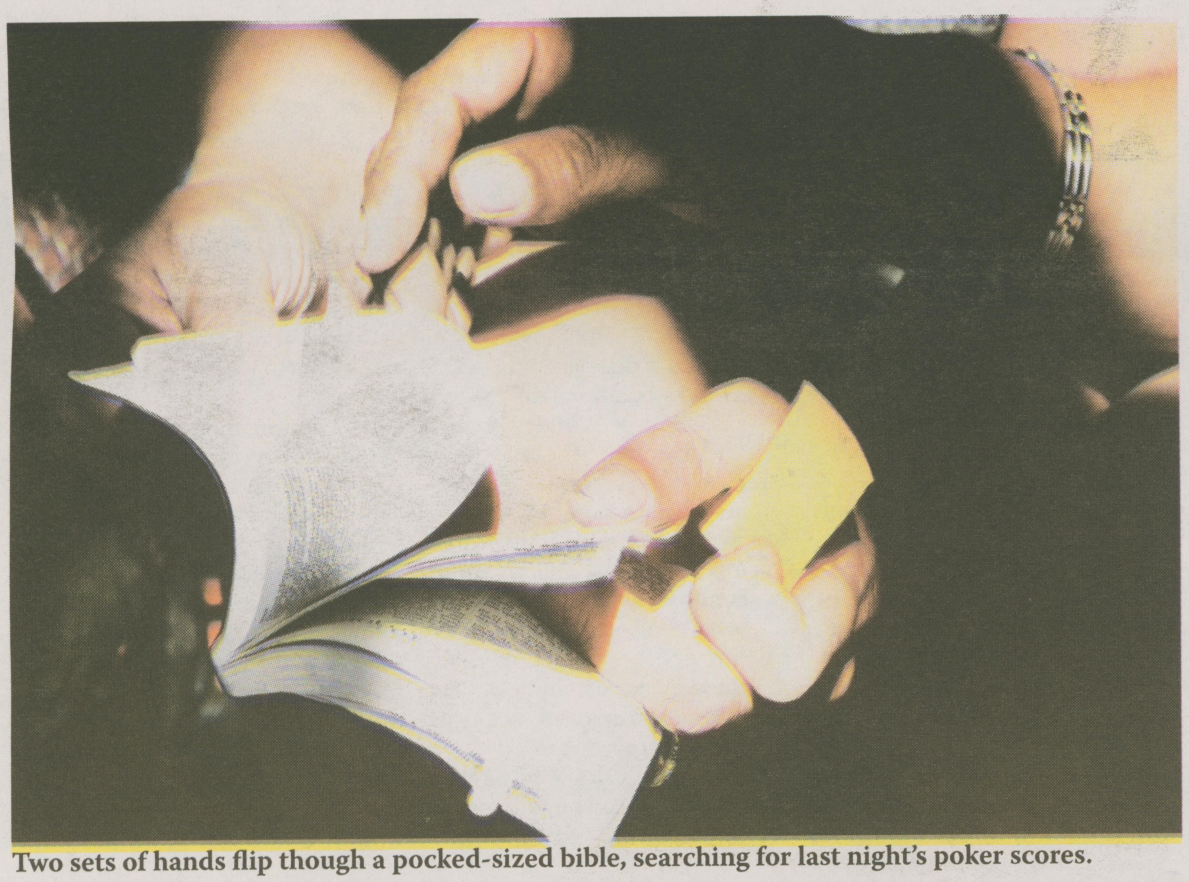
But while the evidence is in plain sight throughout Victoria's downtown core—from panhandlers on corners, to addicts in alleyways, to congregations gathered in front of the city's shelters—as a social issue it remains largely unaddressed. Why is anyone's guess.

Perhaps regular exposure to the sight of those have-nots peppered throughout town has dulled our sense for the hard truths such images imply. Or perhaps on some level we need to see them there, if only as a means of better defining our own privilege. Perhaps the collective conscience we Canadians pride ourselves on is just a myth?

There are no simple answers, no simple solutions, no 10-step plans to a better world. Just a handful of facts that have become less and less difficult to ignore, yet which nonetheless persist with greater and greater intensity, right beneath our noses.

And then there are the people who actually live with them.

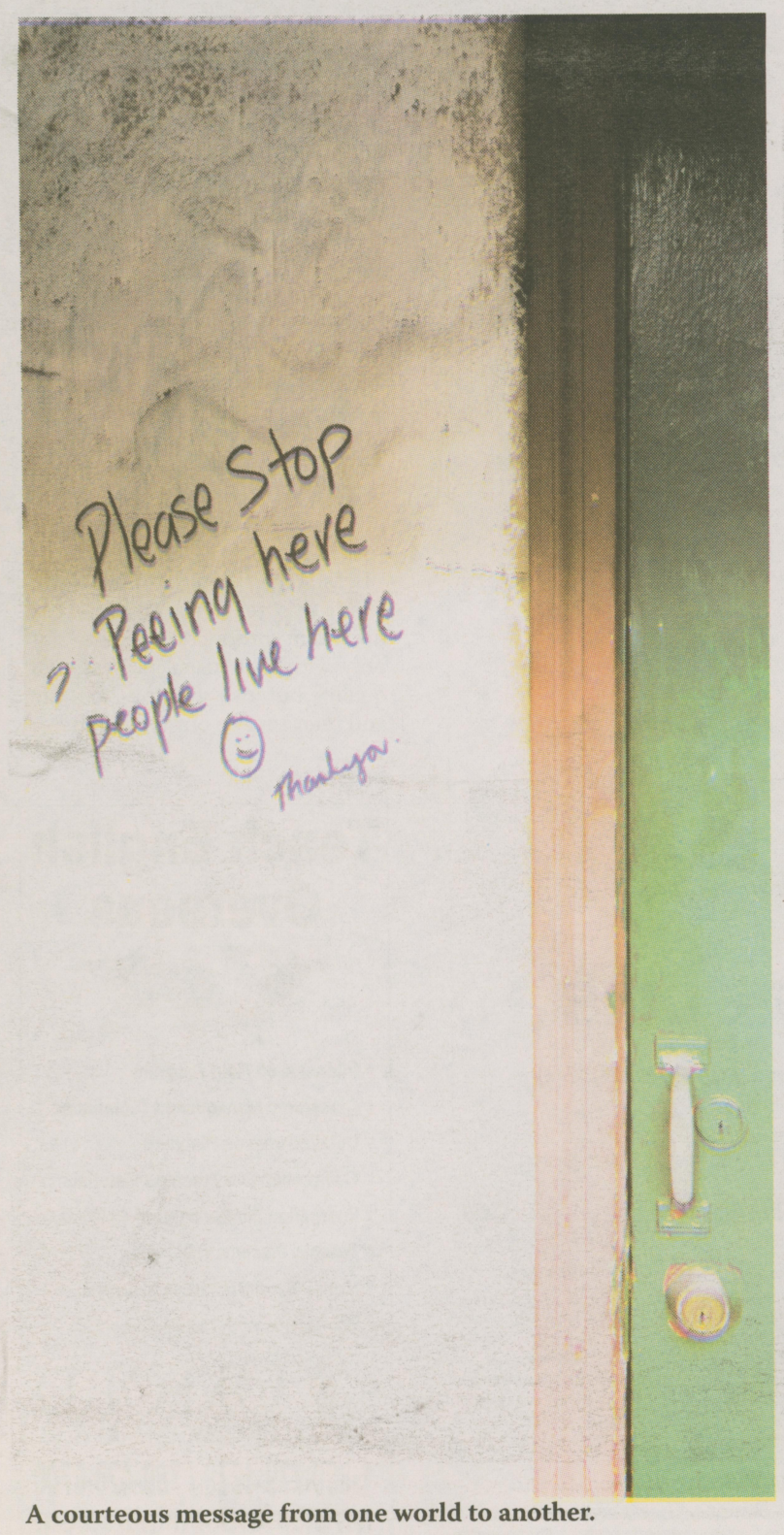
The juxtaposition between have and have-not leaves little to the imagination.



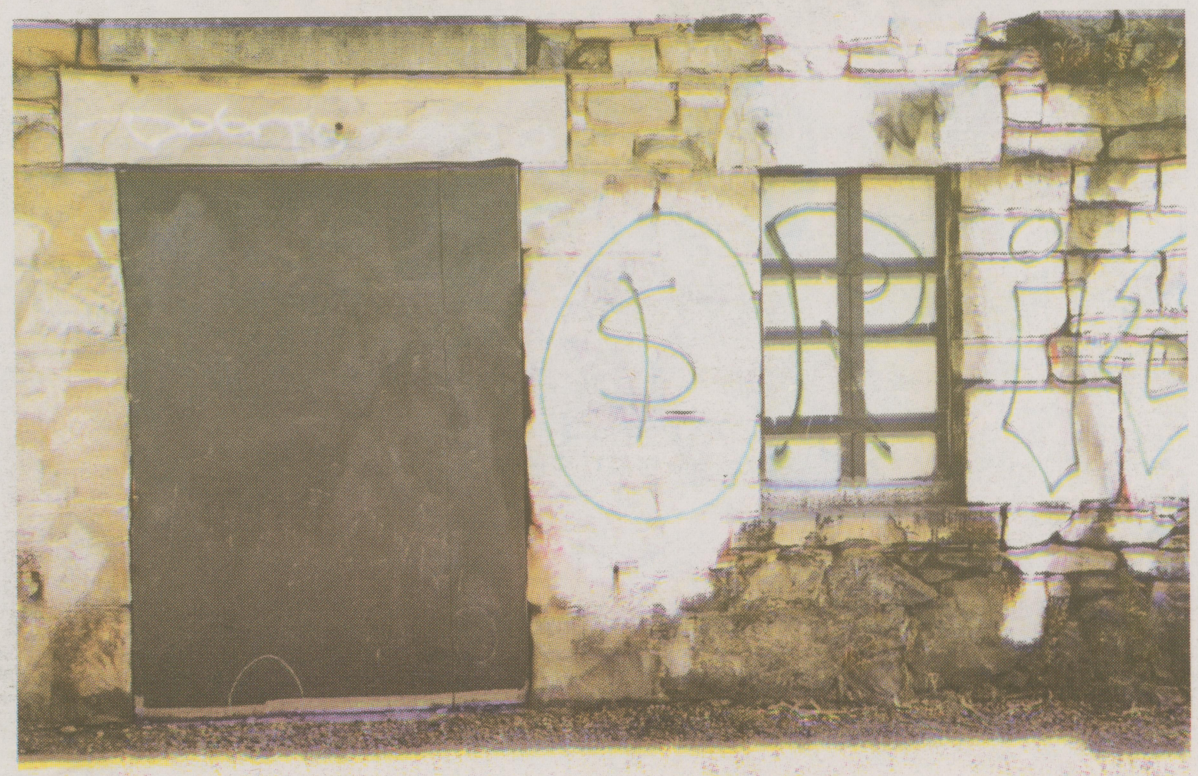
Two sets of hands flip though a pocked-sized bible, searching for last night's poker scores.

For many, handouts from passersby serve to fill-out government assistance and, in the case of some, make up for funds lost to gambling or drinking.

Weathered hands show the wear and tear a life on the street inflicts.



A courteous message from one world to another.



Several vacant buildings downtown, while once serving as shelter for the city's homeless, have recently been sealed to prevent entrance.

TIM MATHESON PHOTO

Allan Morgan as Charlotte von Mahlsdorf in *I Am My Own Wife*.

I Am My Own Wife opens at Belfry

by Martina Avis

The one-man show opening at the Belfry Theatre next week deserves more than the tired tag "award winning." While on Broadway in 2004, Doug Wright's play, *I Am My Own Wife*, won a heap of awards, including the Tony for best play and the Pulitzer Prize for drama. The Belfry is kicking off its 2006/2007 season with this exciting and provocative piece directed by Robert McQueen and starring Allan Morgan. *I Am My Own Wife* is based on the life of Charlotte von Mahlsdorf, an East Berlin transvestite, as seen through the lens of her relationship with playwright Wright.

Charlotte makes for a vibrant character. In life she was no less than a modern German legend. Born as Lothar Berfelde in 1928, Charlotte is recognized by the German public as a cultural icon. She was the subject of a 1992 documentary by Rosa von Praunheim and wrote her autobiography the same year, titled *Ich Bin Meine Eigene Frau* (which means: I Am My Own Woman); both have become Berlin cult classics.

Charlotte famously survived the Nazis and Communists and was mixed up with intrigue on both sides, salvaging German antiques from destruction and allegedly collaborating with the Stasi to save her life and collection. The play begins in 1990 when Wright meets Charlotte, an elderly gentleman whose feminine dress conveys the nostalgia and simplicity that he treasures. The play tracks their relationship as Wright becomes increasingly more fascinated by Charlotte and resolves to write a play about her life.

When beginning his play, Wright worried that his beloved character would be "written off as a freak," but his faith in Charlotte reassured him.

"If a subject is truly worthy, it will speak to everyone," he wrote in an article for the *Los Angeles Times* in June 2005 that detailed the making of his play. Wright's hope for his character is that she will present a "living, breathing illustration of history's necessity in our lives." The play opens on Sept. 19, with the cheapest student prices on Tuesdays at 8 p.m., and runs until Oct. 15.

A modern Isherwood's *Berlin Stories*, Charlotte's story has been making waves everywhere it goes. It is particularly intriguing to ponder how the play will be received and interpreted at the Belfry this year.

Go and see for yourself if the show is a relevant and piercing choice for the Belfry's 2006/2007 season. It was deemed a masterpiece merely two years ago in New York. If it does not succeed here in your eyes its failure will probably not be the fault of the script (it did win a Pulitzer after all). Instead I suggest you consider this: There must be an urgent and undeniable reason for putting on a play.

Let's hope that the Belfry can claim this reason and make the upcoming production replete not only with their usual professional quality, but also with passion, life and relevance to our city today.

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SuicideGirls burlesque show heads to Victoria

Bettina Suicide speaks about her own view of nudity, burlesque and sleeping in curlers

by Jessica Smith

"It's a good thing, given the weather and the proximity of children," says Bettina Suicide, about keeping her clothes on in the photo shoot in Beacon Hill Park for this article. While we're sitting on a bench near the petting zoo, which has just been closed for fall, children walk by us occasionally and stare at Bettina's pinky-red '40s pin curls and theatrical makeup. She sleeps in curlers every night, she says, "It's a lifestyle thing."

Bettina, whose real last name is May, is a UVic political science grad, a suicide girl and a burlesque dancer. SuicideGirls (SG) is a networking website, a "lifestyle brand" and a modelling company. The models pose in pin-up photography and have a wide range of body types, often with prominent piercings and tattoos. Like in *Playboy*, the photos contain nudity, but no penetration or S&M. The models and members of site communicate on message boards, through journals and a news page.

SuicideGirls has branched out in the five years since its inception as a Friendster-style networking website. Now there is a SG book, a DVD and a music compilation, and suicide girls have appeared in music videos, movies and TV shows. Their live burlesque show is coming to Victoria on Sept. 21.

Bettina has been performing burlesque in Victoria since she met her first dance partner through SG three years ago. Through the site, she has been in a Probot music video, an HBO special on the rebirth of modern pin-up, the SG book and several photo shoots. She was asked to audition for SG's burlesque tours but is too busy with her own dance troupe, her faux-fir fashion company and her office job to be away from Victoria for long. She doesn't know exactly what to expect from this year's show—it changes with the personalities of the different dancers—but in the past the neo-burlesque SG shows have included punk-rock girls, metal chicks and goth girls.

"It's not so much what you'd see at a classic burlesque show with the '40s and '50s aesthetics." The attitude is similar to old-style vaudeville, Bettina says, "being humorous about sexuality, making sexuality funny, because that's what it is."

Nixon Suicide, a dancer in the show billed as the "most dangerous burlesque tour in the world" says this year's show is going to be bigger than ever before. "We have a lot more multiple-girl numbers than we had before," she says on the phone from California. "If you don't want to get messy than don't stand in the front row." She sees the show as a good representation of the SG brand.

"The girls on the tour have certainly tried to put a lot of themselves into it and into the act," she says. "The one thing that the tour maybe doesn't represent as much is that all of the girls that are on the tour are dancers, so you get a kind of similar body type.... We have a lot more variety in the photosets [on the website] than we do on the tour in that way."

The models are in charge of their own photos. Bettina says the do-it-yourself aspect of SG modelling is what separates it from traditional pornography.

"I submit my own photos, I take my own photos, I set up the ideas. We all come up with the costumes and concepts, and put it out there ourselves," she says. "We're all about making our lives happen and making our dreams come true ourselves, we're not waiting for someone else to do that for us."

For Bettina, being a suicide girl is a different way of being a feminist.

"I know there are girls on the site who don't picture it that way, and that's cool too, but for me its just one more way to access my feminism," she says. "Me choosing to express my sexuality that way, and to be positive about the female body. It's all about women's control."

Nixon hesitates to call it feminism, but says she has found SG modelling empowering for her, and her fans.

"It's definitely given me a lot of freedom to do what I want to do and I know that it has had a really good effect on the self-confidence of a lot of the girls on the site and a lot of the female members," she says. "I got a lot of positive feedback from women who are trapped in the middle of the [United States] where people are treated as freaks or weird because they look different, and I get e-mails every week from them saying, 'Thank you so much for doing this.'"

Bettina says that to her, the difference between stripping and a burlesque show is the attitude.

"If you go to a burlesque show you're like, 'Ha ha that's really funny, her clothes fell off.' It's in how it's presented, not the content. You're still seeing half-naked girls."

Today, Bettina is a natural, making a different cute and cheeky pose for each of the 40 shots taken under a tree in the park. Whether her nude pictures are pin-up or pornography, or about feminism or exhibitionism, she says, "This isn't just a look we put on for photos, this is just us as we are."

WILLIE LI PHOTO

SuicideGirl Bettina Suicide says, "It's a lifestyle thing."

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The 2006 Canada West Foundation Essay Contest is open to students under the age of 35 and attending a post-secondary institution in BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, or Manitoba as of December 1, 2006.

Essays must be **750 to 1,000 words** in length.

Essays should answer the question **"Is voting important?"** and explain why the author does or does not think this is the case.

Essays should be submitted to the Canada West Foundation **via email** by **December 1, 2006**.

Please provide your full name, address, phone number, and the name of your post-secondary institution at the beginning of your essay.

Please paste your essay into the body of the email message (attached files will not be accepted).

The best essays will be published in the Canada West Foundation's *Dialogues* Magazine.

Essays should be emailed to:
Robert Roach, Canada West Foundation Director of Research
roach@cwf.ca

NOTE: The winner will be required to show proof of age and post-secondary enrollment.

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CanadaWest Foundation

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TOP TEN
FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 11

* means Canadian artist. † means local artist.

1. THE DEARS *
   Gang Of Losers (MapleMusic)
2. THE HIDDEN CAMERAS *
   Awoo (Evil Evil/Outside)
3. CHAD VANGAALEN *
   Skelliconnection (Flemish Eye/Sub Pop)
4. THE ROOTS
   Game Theory (Def Jam)
5. THE DUHKS *
   Migrations (Sugar Hill)
6. J DILLA
   The Shining (BBE)
7. SEAN LENNON
   Friendly Fire (Capitol)
8. BARLEY WIK †
   Beyond The Dawn (Pacific Music)
9. ROOTS MANUVA
   Alternately Deep (Big Dada)
10. HIMALAYAN BEAR †
    Lo, Lonesome Island (Aaargh!)

Hear the weekly top ten on Charts and Graphs every Thursday at 3:00 PM on CFUV 101.9FM.

Atmosphere an anomaly in rap

by Kevin Ehman

Let's get one thing straight: I'm over hip hop. It was due to a plethora of reasons, including the fans (who always intimidate me, regardless of actual levels of hardcore-ness), the concerts (always too loud and too drunk), and the stagnant nature of the genre itself. Reinvention and progression are highly unusual traits in the hip-hop scene, whether mainstream or underground.

Now this is not to say hip hop is devoid of creative talent, because acts such as Living Legends, Zion I and MF Doom have been keeping it fresh and innovative for a long time. But as I sit here and write this, I am listening to Pinback's "Summer in Abaddon." Like I said, I'm over it. There just wasn't enough there to keep me interested.

But let's not be too hasty. There was always one exception, one artist who really spoke in a voice that rang 100 per cent authentic, with a style that applied to so many facets of my life and how I felt.

Atmosphere is a two-piece MC and producer/DJ combo from Minneapolis, Minnesota comprised of enigmatically self-destructive front man Slug and beat-genius extraordinaire Ant. The style of Atmosphere's music is an anomaly in the world of rap, which seems to be filled with posturing thugs and "conscious" underground heads. Slug conveys pure honesty on the mic and whether the emotional truth is pain or bliss, you can be damn sure that he will deliver it—and this unique level of openness with his fans has made Atmosphere one of the most revered rap outfits of the last decade.

On Wednesday, Sept. 6th I received the opportunity to witness this spectacle in its full glory at Sugar nightclub. Opening act Psalm One rocked the crowd with the usual vigor of an opener: tons of enthusiasm for a crowd that didn't know any of his songs.

With the tone of the evening set, I waited during a painful DJ interlude for Atmosphere to come on. As the chants of "We want Slug" grew louder and louder, it seemed inevitable that the show was going to be a banger. The crowd was too stoked for anything to go wrong. Slug walked onto the stage and enjoyed the admiration from the fans for a few seconds before opening with a blistering rendition of "Trying to find a balance," one of the more aggressive songs from the Atmosphere catalogue.

The impeccable mixing from song to song by Ant and Slug's ad hoc lyricism and humor were the definition of what a rap show should be. Midway through the set the pair was joined on stage by a five-piece live band that made for a short pause in the entertainment.

My only previous experience with live hip-hop instrumentation was at a Roots show, so I didn't know how this was going to go over with the Atmosphere crowd, since Roots has a slightly more "organic" (hippy) audience. The result, however, was sheer ecstasy.

ADAM GILMER PHOTO

Atmosphere rocks at Sugar.

The sound was better than listening to records through $300 headphones with your eyes closed. Add the superb musicianship to the unparalleled intensity and interactivity of Slug, and what you have is a truly one-of-a-kind experience in hip hop; a show that can be enjoyed by all types, from indie rockers to straight-up gangsters.

As the night was closed with my personal favorite, "Always coming back home to you," I stood at the back and watched the whole scene. There were the usual things that I hated, but at that moment it didn't really matter; it was all about the music, and the music was more than enough to keep me hanging on.

EDITOR'S CHOICE: EVENT PREVIEWS

Concert for Greenspace
On Saturday, Sept. 16, The Land Conservancy of B.C. will be holding Concert for Greenspace to raise money for environmental preservation. Featured performers are Juno award winners Ian Tamblyn and Shari Ulrich, with special guest Julia Graff.

The Land Conservancy of B.C. (TLC) is a non-profit charitable land trust and conservation organization that strives to preserve areas of natural, ecological, recreational, agricultural, scientific and historic importance permanently through the acquisition of property.

Unlike other organizations occupied with political struggles, TLC buys the land it wants to protect, thereby removing the threat of development and ensuring long-lasting security. Acquired land is set aside for public use, such as the case of the Sooke Potholes Campgrounds. Other examples include Abkhazi Garden and the Sooke Hills.

Both Tamblyn and Ulrich are accomplished musician-singer/songwriters, best known for their folksy ballads. Ulrich's 15-year-old daughter, Julia Graff, will also be performing Saturday night.

The event will be held at the Alix Goolden Hall on Pandora Street. Tickets ($35) are available at the door or in advance from TLC (479-8053).

– Lauren Tee

Climate Action Tour
This is your chance to voice your concerns and ideas about global warming.

The Vancouver Island Public Research Group and the British Columbia Sustainable Energy Association are hosting an evening on Sept. 20 that will offer information about climate change and greenhouse gas emissions followed by discussion and input from the public.

This is part of The Climate Action Tour 2006, a national tour organized to collect public input about the looming global warming crisis. The public input gathered will be presented to Prime Minister Steven Harper in the fall.

If you are interested in learning more about sustainable energy and having an impact on federal government policy, head down to Room 105 of the Harry Hickman Building at UVic. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

– Sally Titasey

Amy Millan on tour
Amy Millan, Stars and Broken Social Scene vocalist, will begin her North American tour promoting her acoustic solo debut *Honey From the Tombs* at Lucky Bar on Sept. 19. The new album, mostly written by Millan in the '90s, might surprise fans who haven't heard it yet. Unlike Broken Social Scene, the album features only Millan and a backing band rather than a 17-piece collective of musicians playing layers upon layers of melody. Also focused on romance, *Honey from the Tombs* is more mature than *Set Yourself on Fire*, focused on country-inspired story songs, instead of precious high-school pop ditties. While not as original or trendy as her group efforts, Millan's new album should make for a touching live show.

Tickets are $12 and are available at Lucky, Ditch and www.ticketweb.com.

– Jessica Smith

Randy Bachman Benefit Concert
On Sunday, Sept. 17, Canadian-born rocker Randy Bachman will be performing at UVic to raise money for new playground equipment at Frank Hobbs Elementary School in Victoria.

Bachman is well respected for his talents as a guitarist, songwriter, producer and performer. He headed The Guess Who and later collaborated with his brothers to form a hard rock band, Bachman-Turner Overdrive. Bachman has since released several solo albums and currently hosts a popular CBC radio show, Vinyl Tap, every Saturday night.

The benefit concert will be presented in a "music and stories" format as Bachman performs his hit songs and tells entertaining stories about them. All proceeds will be put towards purchasing the playground facilities.

A sell-out crowd is expected, so pick up a ticket and enjoy some homegrown classic rock while supporting a worthy cause.

Tickets are $40 and are available from the University Centre Box Office (721-8480) or at www.auditorium.uvic.ca.

– Sally Titasey

Back to Reform School Rockout
The Matadors, The Creepshow, Big John Bates and the Voodoo Dolls, and The Switchblade Valentines are bringing Rockabilly, Punkabilly and Pyschobilly to Sugar on Sept. 15 with the Back to Reform School Rockout show. Ontario bands The Matadors and The Creepshow share the love of horror, sex and rock and roll with the local opening bands, and should express it on Friday night with stand-up bases, fake human skulls, burlesque dancers in pasties, and loud, obscene rocking out.

Tickets are $15 available at Lucky, Ditch and www.ticketweb.com

– Jessica Smith

SARAH LAWLEY-WAKELIN PHOTO

Theset vocalist Martin MacPhail performs at Open Air.

Theset, Counting Heartbeats play to audience of hundreds in outdoor concert

by Sarah Lawley-Wakelin

Summer may be officially over for the returning student, but over 500 music fans didn't let it die quietly. Local darlings Theset, Counting Heartbeats and Acres of Lions filled the warm September night with music at the second-last concert of Open Air in Centennial Square.

When the first strings of melody rang out from newcomers Acres of Lions, it was clear that the good atmosphere was not the only thing that was going right. The music was pretty hot too.

Acres of Lions played a short but captivating set in their first show together as a band, received well by a crowd that had most likely never heard of them before that night.

When Counting Heartbeats took the stage, it was clear the fans knew who they were. Popular tunes found on their MySpace page like "Lend it Bullets" had the crowd chanting along with the group like they were atop of the Billboard charts. Joshua Van Leeuwen's vocals were particularly strong that night and the group looked very comfortable on the bigger stage.

However, the title band provided the most spark of all. When Theset, who were premiering the release of their live DVD, came on stage the crowd went wild. The beer garden dwindled. People came in from the sidelines to join a massive mosh pit in front of the stage, and came together in a euphoria of sound.

The band started their set with the newer song "Man of Industrial Strength," and even though it is not on their CD, the fans knew the words by heart. Vocalist Martin MacPhail connected well with the crowd, and the energy flowing between the band and the screaming fans was extremely tangible. Popular tunes such as "12:34," and "Sunshine Dust" were even better received. They were called back for a well-deserved encore of "Matador" and left the stage.

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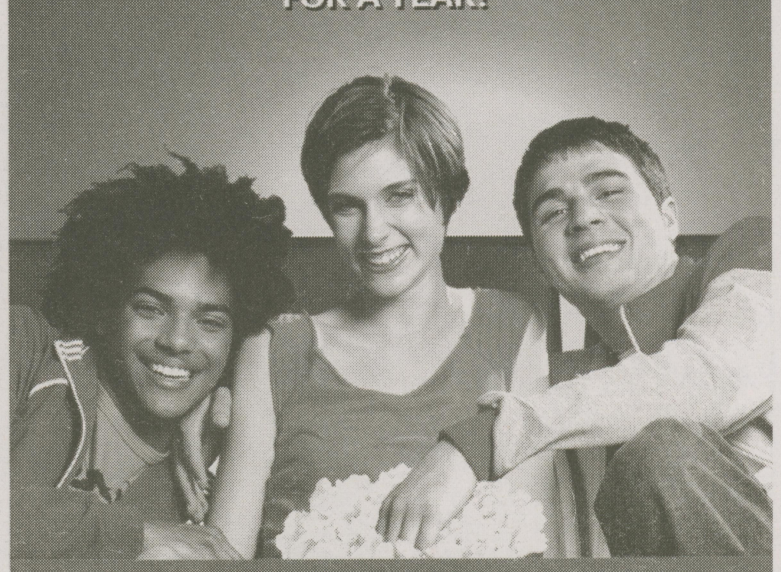

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Cross-Canada tour creates transgender awareness

by Kim Armstrong

The Trans Cycling Odyssey, a cross-Canada cycling tour to raise awareness of transgender issues and suicide prevention, has finished, but for participants Keenan Pinder and Noah Adams, their journey continues.

Pinder and Adams began the tour on April 28 in Victoria in memory of their friend Alexandria Tucker, a transgendered UVic student who committed suicide in 2005. The pair put on numerous workshops about transgender issues during the trip.

"Alex was kind of one of those people that was larger than life, and we wanted to pick something that was larger than life," said Adams. "We're not athletes and we're not cyclists by any means. We wanted to pick something that was difficult for us. Canada's a big country."

Travelling an average of 100 kilometres a day, the pair, along with the driver of their van, Hugs, and Adams' dog Jordi, cycled to St. John's, Newfoundland, and drove back to Victoria in July.

"The primary goal was to raise awareness for both transgender issues and suicide prevention awareness, but we fundraised along the way," said Adams. "Basically what we made we used to keep going." Gas was very expensive this summer and travelling with a 1977 Chevy van cost between $5,000 and $6,000.

Adams and Pinder are co-directors of the Alexandria Tucker Memorial Society. Pinder attends Camosun College, while Adams is completing his social work degree at UVic.

Now that their tour is over, they are taking the time to improve the society's internal organization.

"Right now we're in the process of restructuring into a non-profit, and figuring out what our best options are," said Adams. The pair is trying to decide whether to apply as a non-profit organization immediately or to find cheap office space first to allow for time to grow as an organization before applying for non-profit status.

The pair also wants to work on completing and publishing Tucker's unfinished book, a true story about a transgendered person's experience in prison, and want to continue to work to raise awareness of transgender issues within the community and among transgendered people—individual's whose self-identified gender does not match their physical gender.

Adams said issues transgendered people face on a daily basis are not issues people in the wider community confront.

"I guess it depends on how well you pass, but I think one of the bigger issues is everyday, common things that most people don't think about, like using the bathroom," said Adams.

PROVIDED PHOTO

Keenan Pinder biked to St. John's, Newfoundland this summer.

"Do you use the women's bathroom where you get screamed at, or do you use the men's bathroom where you get the crap beaten out of you?"

Another upcoming plan for Adams and Pinder is a fall visit to southern Ontario and Quebec.

"We're still working that out with the University of Guelph," said Adams. "They want us to come over there for Queer Identities Week. I guess the biggest concern there right now is plane fare and that kind of thing, but it looks positive right now."

Beer tasting

by Steve Carey

I asked various craft brewers what to look for when tasting beer. Here's what I found.

The Nose
A good beer should have a distinct nose; this aroma will let you determine whether it is malty, hoppy or whether it's sat too long.

Malt is what the taste of the beer is. Hops provide the seasoning. The brewmaster is the chef of the beer kitchen, getting ingredients specific to the recipe for the beer they're trying to create. By roasting the hops, different flavours can be brought out such as chocolate, caramel and espresso.

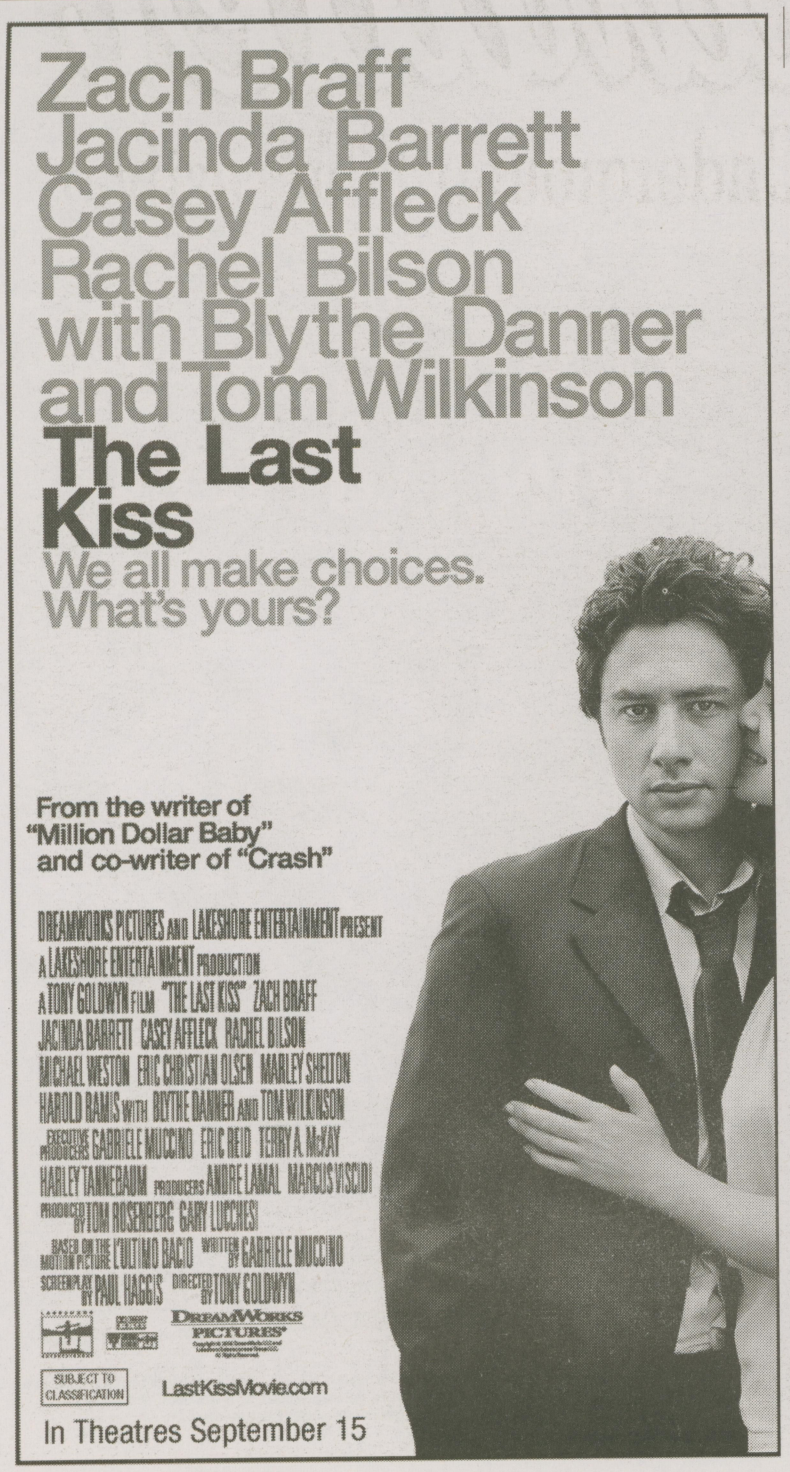
Colour, Clarity
The colour and clarity of the beer tells you what type it is. Ales are dark brown to black, served at cellar temperature. Lagers are usually lighter and clearer. India Pale Ale (IPA) should be a clear, pale yellow.

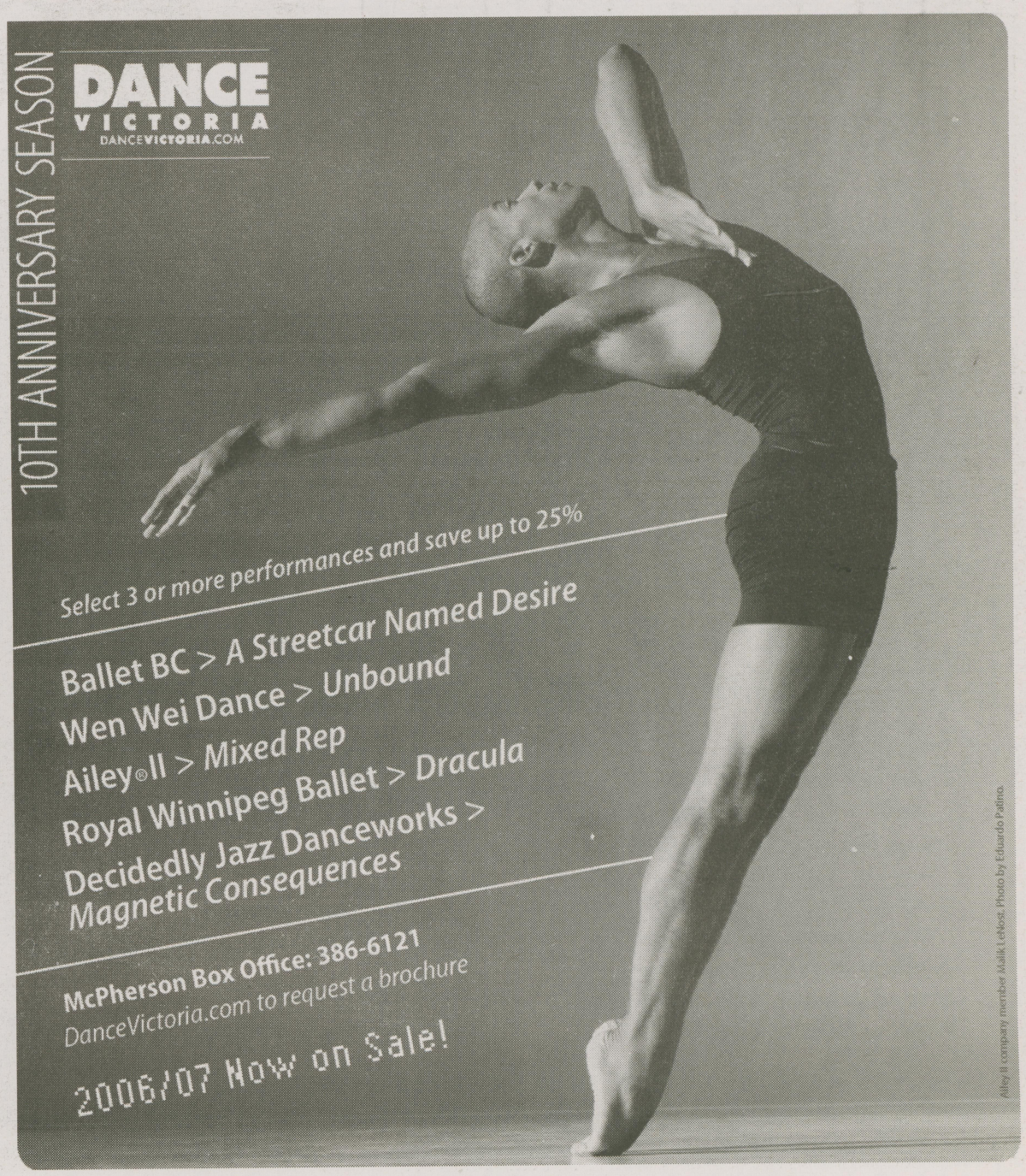
The Taste
Don't swallow yet; this initial taste will tell you the predominate flavour brought out by the yeast or hops. What does the mouth feel like? How thick is the beer? How sweet is it? How bitter is it?

Swallow
Swallow the beer to get the full effect. The bitterness becomes more apparent as the beer hits taste receptors at the back of the throat.

The Finish
What is the finish of the beer all about? Is it a long lasting flavour? A bitter aftertaste? Is it dry, malty, hoppy?

Take this time to consider what the final flavours are.





Tai chi beneficial for student stress

Internal energy needs to be circulated in order to promote good health and longevity

by Sarah Lawley-Wakelin

Are classes stressing you out already? The slow, graceful movements of tai chi may have more benefits to students than expected, and starting Sept. 14 the opportunity to take classes is right on our doorstep.

"It's extremely good for students," says Susan Dempsey, instructor of the new Thursday night classes at UVic. "They are so focused on their brain, on remembering everything, on taking notes." A former UVic student herself, Dempsey expressed enjoyment in the contrast with her lectures and classes. "I loved the doing instead of just the listening."

She also found it beneficial for midterms and finals.

"Instead of doing last minute cramming before an exam, I would do a tai chi set," says Dempsey. "I think it helped my memory, and it definitely calmed me down. I did well at any rate."

Dallas Goodchild, an instructor with the Victoria branch of the Taoist Tai Chi Society of Canada, explained that it can be a good way to escape the stresses of everyday life.

"When you partake in tai chi, you're concentrating on just that for that period of time," she says. "It doesn't matter what's going on in your world, doesn't matter how crappy you feel. It all goes away. Your focus is on tai chi."

Dempsey agrees. "It's a different experience. You let everything settle for that hour, two hours."

William Ashworth, 22, a newcomer to tai chi and a student at Camosun, stretches every morning after he gets up.

"I feel revitalized and more focused, and it's easier to hit the books afterwards," he says. "If you're sitting down all day you're going to get restless. Doing some simple movements in the morning helps this."

Tai chi combines a full exercise program, martial arts and moving meditation for a full-bodied experience. Internal energy needs to be circulated in order to promote good health and longevity. It reduces the effects of wear and tear on the body, and improves circulation, digestion and overall strength. Through the 108 movements of the Taoist tai chi set, the beginner student learns to align their spine, relax their muscles and improve co-ordination and balance.

They also learn to quiet their mind.

"I'm a perfectionist. I think too much," says Ashworth. "I've learned to calm down my mind and let everything flow through, because if you think too hard about the moves, you end up messing them up anyways."

Combining meditation with physical activity is ideal. Not only is one's mind quieted and focused, but physical changes are noted in all who participate.

"My strength is up, my posture is up, and my movement and alignment are wonderful," says Goodchild. "My tension headaches are gone."

It is also ideal for those who are suffering from lingering physical ailments and surgery. Ashworth, who underwent a double lung transplant because of cystic fibrosis last July, says it has helped him immensely.

So with all the physical and mental benefits for those of all ages, why are the majority of people taking tai chi middle-aged adults?

Bert Annear, the director of Graduate Admissions at UVic, believes that it's mainly a matter of experience.

"When you turn about 30, you begin to realize that your body is venerable," he says.

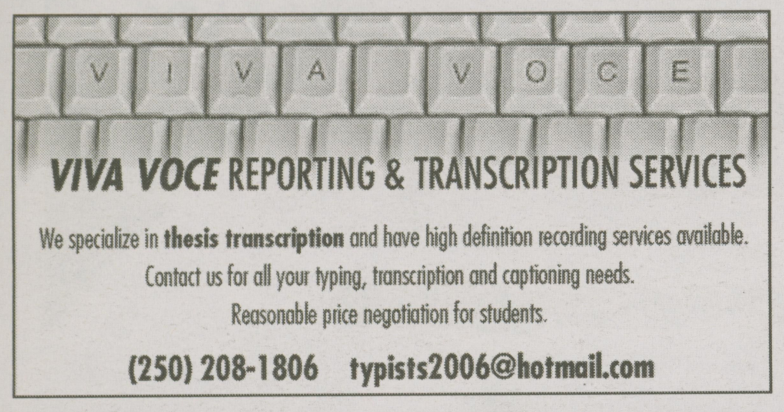
"I think it's because young adults discredit it," says Ashworth. "They think it's slow, and has no cardio benefit. But it really works every muscle in your body to the fullest."

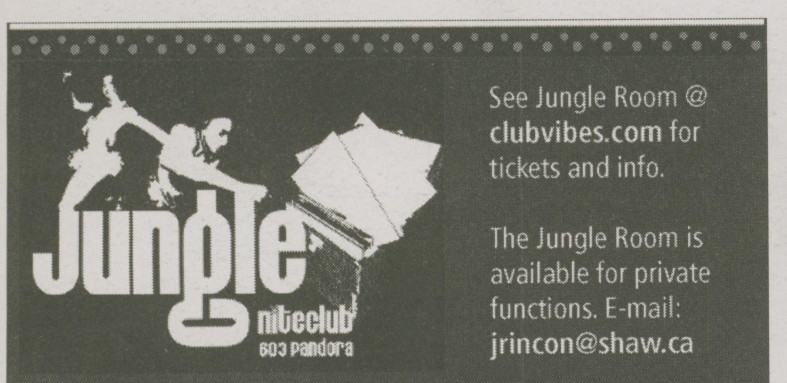
This is a large reason why classes are going to start at UVic. If classes are right on campus, the turnout of students may increase.

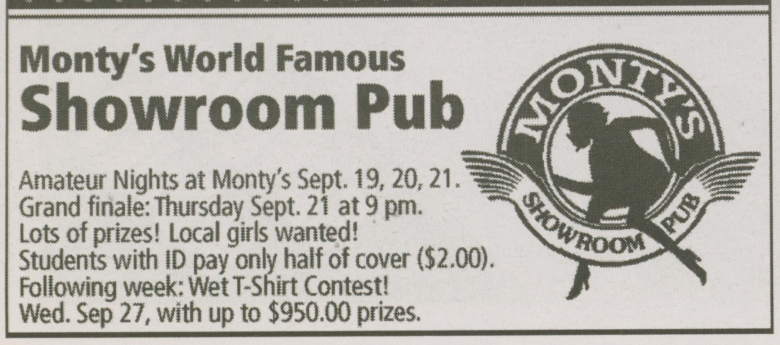
"I want to expand it a bit," says Dempsey. "We see a small number of young people, like [Ashworth], with injuries, but I want all students to participate. It's beneficial for everyone."

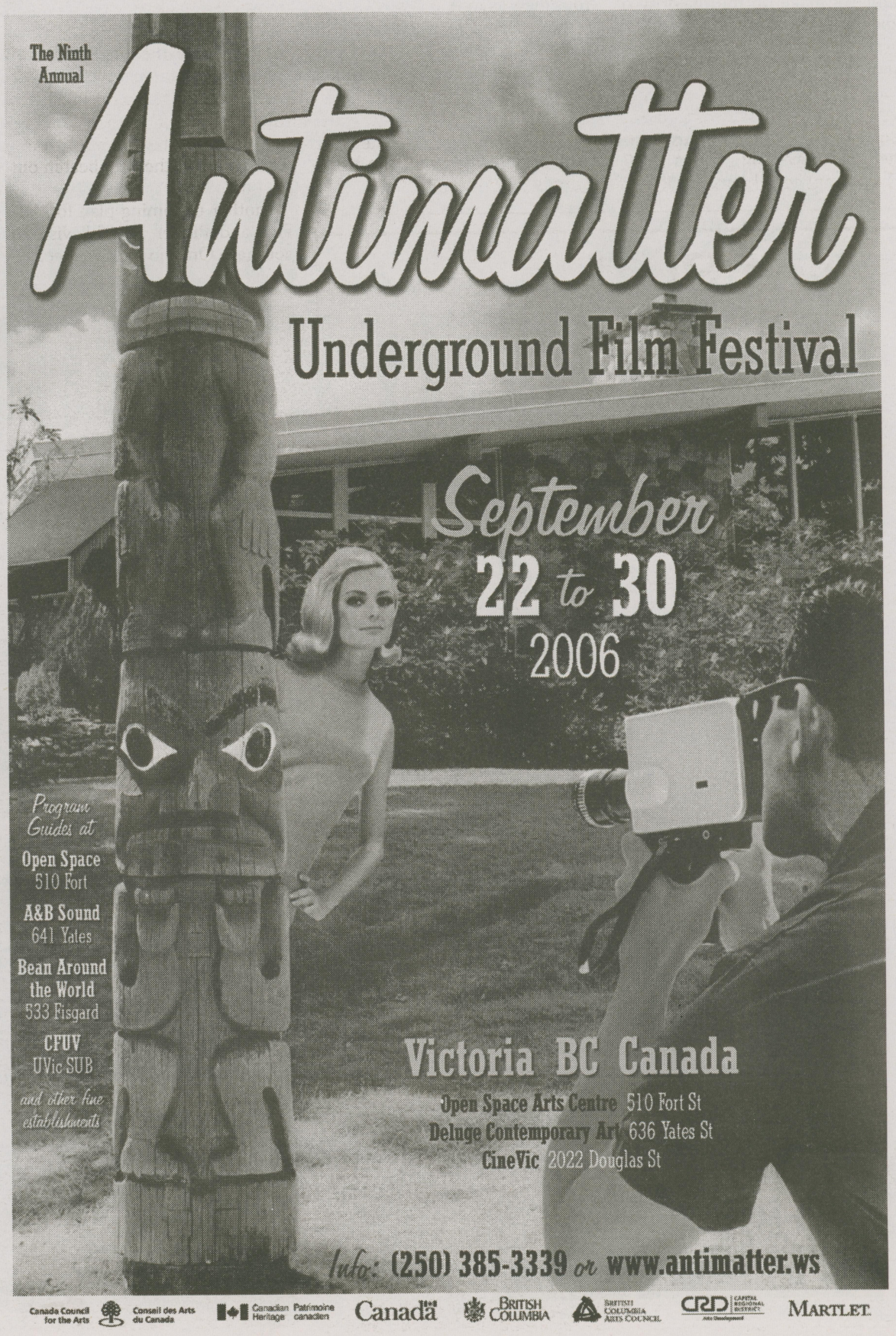
SARAH LAWLEY-WAKELIN PHOTO

Members of the Taoist Tai Chi Society provide a demonstration on campus at Petch Fountain.









Study looks at vegetarian versus meat-eating athletes

Kamran Rad researches the effectiveness of creatine, a dietary element in meat

by Melanie Tromp

Every now and again, UVic researchers get to pondering those age-old questions—whether or not an isolated tree falling is audible, maybe the chronology of chickens and eggs or in this case, that burning question of who's the better sports star: carnivore or vegetarian?

UVic grad student Kamran Rad has devised his thesis study to pit mixed diets against veggies in an effort to determine the usefulness of creatine supplements, a dietary element that herbivores lack by one half.

"Human bodies receive two grams of creatine per day—one gram from natural production and one from [meat] diets," explains Rad. This chemical produces short bursts of energy that are integral for performance sports including sprints, lifting and track-and-field events.

Using a double-blind methodology, Rad is currently testing 40 athletic participants aged 20 to 49, including three vegans and three lacto-ovo-vegetarians (someone who does not eat meat, but will eat dairy products) to determine the effectiveness of creatine. Female athletes make up the majority of the 20 veggie volunteers.

The study is conducted over 12 days in five one-hour sessions, analyzing the volunteers in terms of work output (10 chest presses) and anaerobic power (sprint cycling) with 20 second breaks between sprints. These breaks are the linchpin of the entire thesis.

"[Creatine supplements] will help with energy production," Rad speculates. "If you have more phosphoric creatine in your system, more [energy] will be generated during short breaks."

A creatine supplement first appeared on the radar as a performance enhancer after the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, where two gold-medal athletes in track events and several British rowers confirmed its use. Despite its muscle-enhancing properties, creatine has not made it onto the International Olympic Committee's banned substance list yet, although it is illegal for sale in several countries.

Rad, an exercise science student, hypothesizes that the results of this study will benefit vegetarian athletes, though creatine is not the only element lacking in a meat-free diet. He admits the value of conducting a similar study to test the significance of vitamin B12 and iron supplements, two nutrients that are also linked to star athletic performance, in herbivorous diets as well.

Thus far, the meat-eaters in Rad's study appear to be performing better than the vegetarians in most cases.

AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

A test subject does chess presses for Kamran Rad's thesis project.

A former vegan himself, Rad has weighed out the pros and cons of a vegetarian/vegan lifestyle after facing borderline anemia as a blood donor. Rad is quick to point out that meatless diets have proven effective in reducing the rate of obesity, diabetes, high cholesterol and heart disease—positive effects that make iron deficiency at least a bit more appealing.

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A new school year, a new sports season

A preview of the Vikes' new soccer, basketball and rowing teams

by David Karp

UVic sports teams are training hard for the upcoming season. The Martlet takes a peek at what to expect from our soccer, basketball and rowing teams.

Soccer

The UVic Vikes women's team will be trying to win back-to-back titles when they host the national championships in November. They've started off on the right note with a 2-0 victory over mainland rivals at the University of British Columbia (UBC) on Sept. 9.

"The most important game of the year in terms of fan base is the UBC game," said coach Tracy David, who added the teams might meet in the Canada West championship.

The team is missing five players from their title-winning squad, but has a core of five fifth-year players who will be looked to for leadership, including 25-year-old defensive midfielder Carey Gustafson. She spent her summer collecting another trophy by helping the Vancouver Whitecaps win the W-League.

"She has had stints in the national team program," said David. "She does anything and everything for the game."

Things don't look as rosy for the men's team, which struggled last year with 18 new players. Fourteen of those will be back this year, but coach Bruce Wilson wants to take things slow.

"Our goal this year is to make [the] playoffs," he said. "It's still going to take a little time to get used to the league for our young players." The team will be looking to their captain, fifth-year economics student Kyle Finner, to provide leadership.

"He can play at the back, he can play at midfield, or he can play up front," said Wilson.

The Vikes will need some big goals from striker Cole McFarlane, last year's Canada West Rookie of the Year and graduate of Canada's under-15 national team program.

The team started the season with a 3-0 loss to Trinity Western on Sept. 7, but recovered with a 3-0 win against University College of the Fraser Valley two days later.

Basketball

The women will have it tough in the über-strong Canada West division.

"Probably the best way to put it is there's no easy games," said coach Brian Cheng, adding that UBC and Simon Fraser University are particularly difficult to play against.

"We play each other the most," he said. "You've got potentially three of the top five teams in Canada in the same division and eating each other up, just pounding away at you throughout the season."

The team has five new players who will be looking to make the starting lineup. Michelle Lee joins the team fresh out of Handsworth Secondary School in North Vancouver, while Cassie Penner comes from Grant MacEwan College in Edmonton.

"I think we found a diamond in the rough [in Penner], because she could end up to be one of the best players. She could end up being All-Conference or All-Canadian calibre," said Cheng. Like the men's team, the women have found a player from Mount Royal College in six-foot shooting guard Marin McCue. The team may start slowly as experienced players Janya Mynott and Ashley Kimmett recover from injuries.

The men's b-ball team will be looking for a national championship this year after falling short to Carleton University in last year's Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) gold-medal game. Last year's team remains largely intact, although the squad has added four new recruits, including Josh Whyte, a transfer student from Mount Royal College in Calgary. Expect him to get some time as point guard to fill the hole left by the graduation of Chris Trumpy, a two-time Canada West Defensive Player of the Year.

"[Whyte] brings in a lot of athleticism and quickness and is a very talented young player," said coach Craig Beaucamp. "We're expecting some big things from [him]." Fifth-year guards Brandon Ellis and Steve Moore will help guide the new recruits, while CIS rookie of the year Jacob Doerksen will be eager to add a championship to his resumé.

Rowing

You'll have to wake up very early to see the Vikes women's team rowing on Elk Lake. Their boats hit the water at 5:30 a.m. four days a week, and at 6:30 a.m. on Saturday.

"We come out early, get our work done, get out of there, and have first crack at breakfast," said coach Rick Crawley. The team's hard work paid off last year when the Vikes won the Canadian University Rowing Championships held at Elk Lake.

"We're rebuilding. We've lost some key players," said Crawley, adding that the team has 14 returning rowers and will be seeking another championship. The women will also want to maintain their 14-year winning streak in the Brown Cup against UBC. Susanne Ross and Jaime Traynor will be counted on to lead the team to victory.

With six rowers on Canadian national teams, the men's rowing team should have a strong year. The team also has 17 new rowers who will provide the team with depth.

"We've got the largest rookie camp we've ever had," said coach Howie Campbell. UVic was fourth in Canada last year, so there are high expectations for this years' team. However, one of their biggest battles will be the Brown Cup in March, an annual race between UVic and UBC.

"It's been going now for 15 years and we've won it for the [first] 13," said Campbell. "But UBC's won it for the last two, and we'd kind of like to go over on their home course and see if we can't regain that title."

Look for electrical engineer Graham Rusk to be the leader in the boat; he's been captain the last two seasons. Danny Buchanan and Keith Siklenka, graduates of Belmont High School this year, will be strong additions to the team after finishing second in the senior men's pairs at the Canadian Secondary Schools Rowing Association championship in June.

ALEX GILLETT PHOTO

The Vikes women's soccer team defeated UBC last Saturday.

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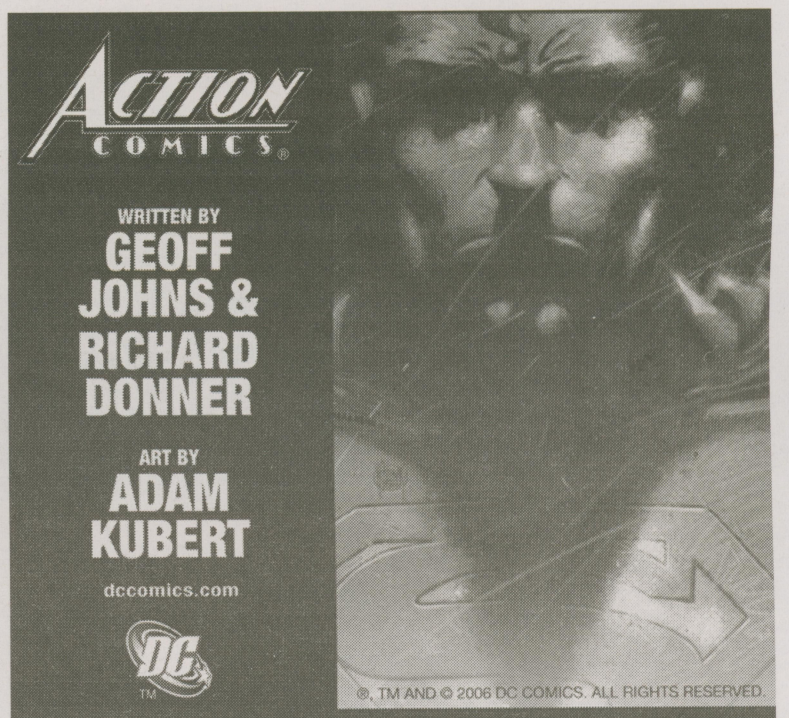

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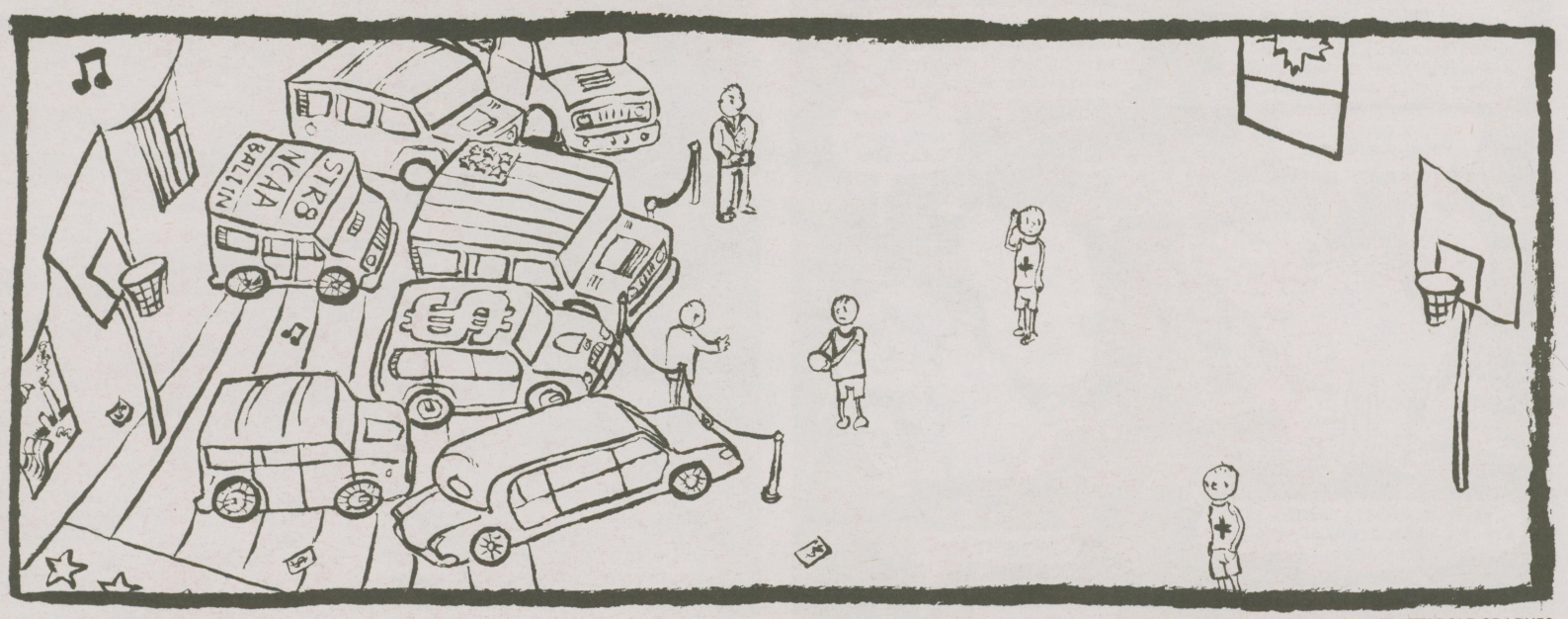
NCAA basketball teams visiting Canada on the rise

International tours give squads a head start on the season

by Boris Korby



ANTHONY FRATTAROLI GRAPHIC

VANCOUVER (CUP) — In the world of NCAA basketball, Canada has become the summer destination of choice.

In August, Arizona, Louisville and 2006 NCAA champions Florida joined approximately a half dozen other Division I schools and headed north. They went sightseeing, dined at fancy restaurants and bought maple syrup.

But more importantly, coming to Canada gave each team 10 extra days of practice, and up to 10 extra games that don't count against the NCAA's maximum game limit. For American college basketball coaches, that's Canada's true appeal.

Canadian fans of the college game have NCAA bylaws to thank for bringing some of basketball's best young stars north. The rules allow a school to practice and play exhibition games in August and September—nearly two months before a team is allowed to begin regular practices—if the team is going on a foreign tour, which it can do once every four years.

New Mexico State is one of the approximately half-dozen schools taking advantage of NCAA rules by coming to Canada this year. They played Douglas College, the University of British Columbia and the University of Saskatchewan during a Labour Day long-weekend trip to Vancouver.

With four incoming Division I transfers, the team's coaching staff felt a trip to Canada was an ideal way to bring the inexperienced team together to practice by playing competitive basketball early in the year and foster team bonding, said Garrett Ward, assistant director of athletic media relations at New Mexico State University.

Tours of Canada do not just attract the inexperienced and unproven of the NCAA. Former NBA coach Rick Pitino and the heralded Louisville basketball program was in Ottawa to face CIS champions Carleton University, the University of Ottawa and Laurentian University over the Labour Day weekend. At the same time, 2006 NCAA Final Four MVP Joaquim Noah and NCAA champions Florida were in southern Ontario to face Brock University and the University of Guelph.

"[The] 10 practices prior to [the season] is really the hidden value of everything, and why NCAA schools are so quick to jump on them whenever possible," said Fred Demarest, men's basketball sports information director at the University of Florida.

"It's an opportunity to spend 10 days practicing as a team and getting a head start," he said. "For the incoming players it's a benefit to get used to the system, and [an opportunity] for the returning players to chip off some of the rust."

Jason Sarkies, tournament director of Basketball Travelers Inc., the company responsible for planning the majority of the Division I teams' foreign tours, said besides the common language, ease of travel and relative cost, NCAA schools are choosing Canada over alternative destinations around the world because of the style of basketball and level of competitiveness they get against CIS teams.

"The Canadian style is far more American—in fact it's almost identical to the American style—so the games actually are far more helpful to them than the standard European or Australian basketball," said Sarkies.

In Canada, university teams are relishing the opportunity to play Division I competition, and despite Canadian tours becoming increasingly popular in recent years, there is no lack of teams willing to host NCAA schools, said Sarkies.

"A lot of Canadian guys like to play against Americans," said the University of British Columbia men's basketball assistant coach Randy Nohr. "I'm sure we get a lot more excited than they do. It's a lot of fun as a Canadian to beat Division I American schools. And it's a good opportunity to play good competition, the type of teams we're going to face at nationals."

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Building Better Relationships Free workshops beginning Sept 26 on Tues and Thurs evenings, 7 to 9 at Dispute Resolution Centre, 108-1218 Wharf Street. Topics include Healthy Communications, Strong Emotions, Conflict Management and Successful Co-Parenting. Call 386-4331 to register.

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Falun Dafa (meditation) at Fernwood Community Centre, 1240 Gladstone, **Wednesdays,** 5-7 p.m. Also, **Saturdays and Sundays,** 10-noon, across from Beacon Hill petting zoo - all winter. Free, everyone welcome. 386-8805, faluninfo.net

The Victoria Gilbert & Sullivan Society is holding auditions Oct 14 & 15, for their March 2007 production of "IOLANTHE". Phone 384-6707 to book an audition time.

The Victoria Folk Music Society offers live music every **Sunday night at 7:30 p.m., 1110 Hillside.** Info: www.pacificcoast.net/~vfms

The Victoria EVENING Newcomers Club FOR WOMEN meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at local restaurants - reservations are required. Call Peggy at 744-1823 or Valerie at 477-8100 for more information.. PLEASE

THE NATIVE PLANT STUDY GROUP - Sept. Meeting Guest speaker Adam Weir of Paradise Landscapes will speak on building living roofing systems using native plants. Thursday, Sept 21, 2006 at 7 p.m., UVic, MacLaurin Bldg, Rm D-116. Non member drop-in fee: $2. For more info contact 595-5820.

Wednesday Night Peace Vigils at the Legislature 7-8 p.m. Peace ambassadors are needed to greet international visitors and to respond to current world conflict issues (including disarmament, civilian casualties, nuclear terrorism). Bring your peaceful passion and share it with vigilers from around the world. We will have been talking to Coho ferry passengers, other tourists and locals on a weekly basis since October 2001, when Canadian forces joined in support of the "humanitarian bombing" of Afghanistan. Come and witness with us the change in public opinion. Imagine: War Never Again. (477-1944)

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Interested in volunteering in radio? Behind the scenes or on-air? CFUV 101.9 FM is UVic's campus/community radio station broadcasting from the campus at 2290 watts of power. We are looking for those interested in producing or helping out in regards to public affairs, native student, women or queer issues, but everyone is welcome to apply. Contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Kate Hollefreund at vol4cfuv@uvic.ca or drop by the station in the SUB, RMB006, Monday to Friday 10-5 p.m.

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The Western Canada Wilderness Committee is now hiring canvassers. If you are a dedicated individual seeking meaningful work, contact us. Call 388-9292 or apply in person at 651 Johnson St between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

September is Muscular Dystrophy Awareness Month! There are 179 people in the Vancouver Island region who are registered with Muscular Dystrophy Canada (MDC). By printing the PSA in your publication, you are supporting the people in your community who have neuromuscular disorders. Your local Vancouver Island MDC Chapter will be organizing community fundraisers to raise money for research, equipment, and services for people living with neuromuscular disorders. Please support them. 1.866.MUSCLE.8 www.muscle.ca

AIDS Walk 2006 will happen on Sunday, September 26. Walkers will gather at Centennial Square (City Hall) at 10:30 am. After a few speakers, walkers will travel along Government St. to the BC Legislature. We expect to be finished around noon. If you are interested in volunteering or if you have any questions, please contact Leslie at AIDS Vancouver Island, or 384-2366.

Royal BC Museum Do you have Want a fun and meaningful volunteer opportunity? THE COMMUNITY ACTION ON AIDS/VIDEA PUBLIC ART INSTALLATION is looking for help decorating flags and installing the project in August. For more information contact Chloe at craxlen@uvic.ca

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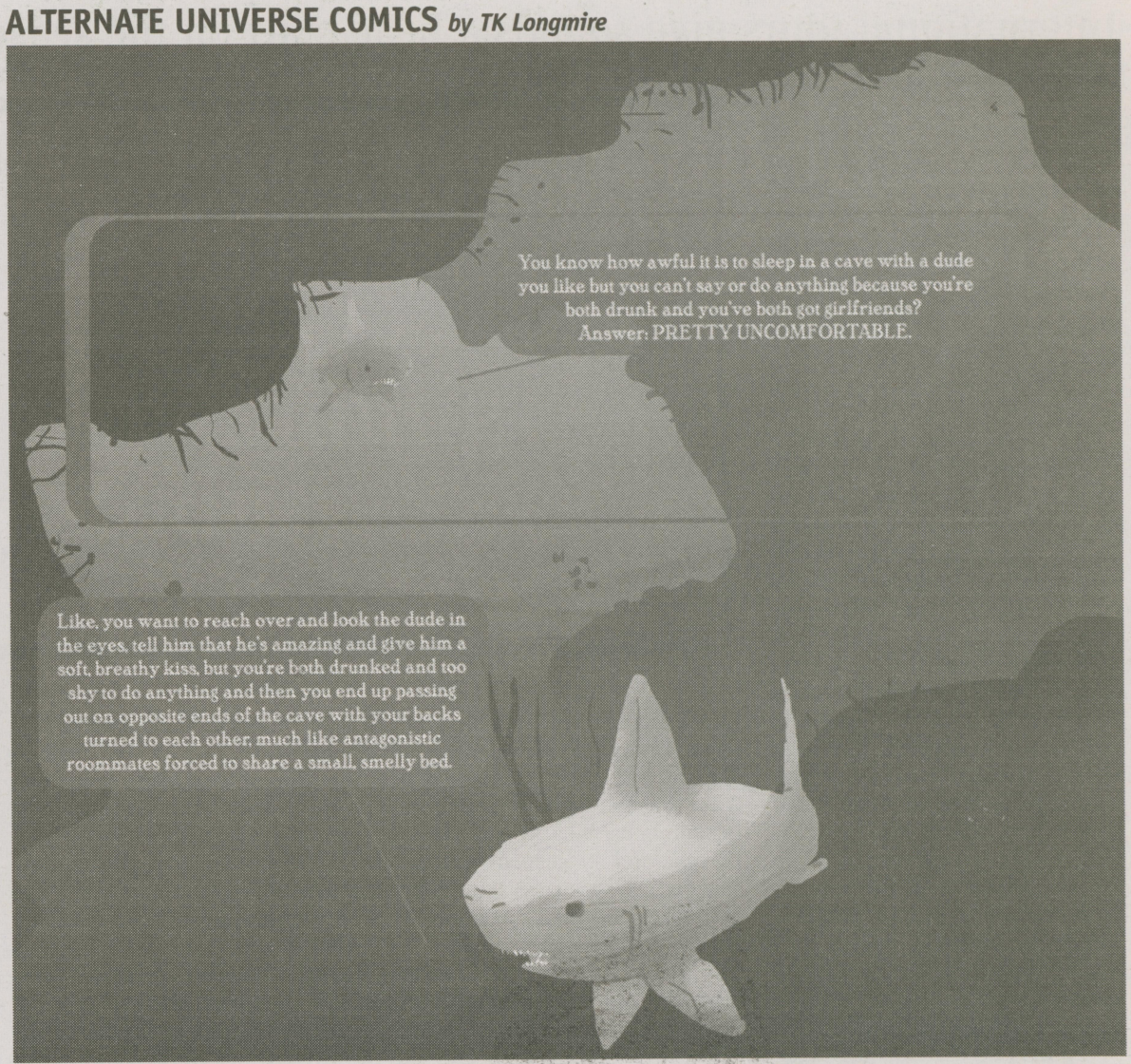
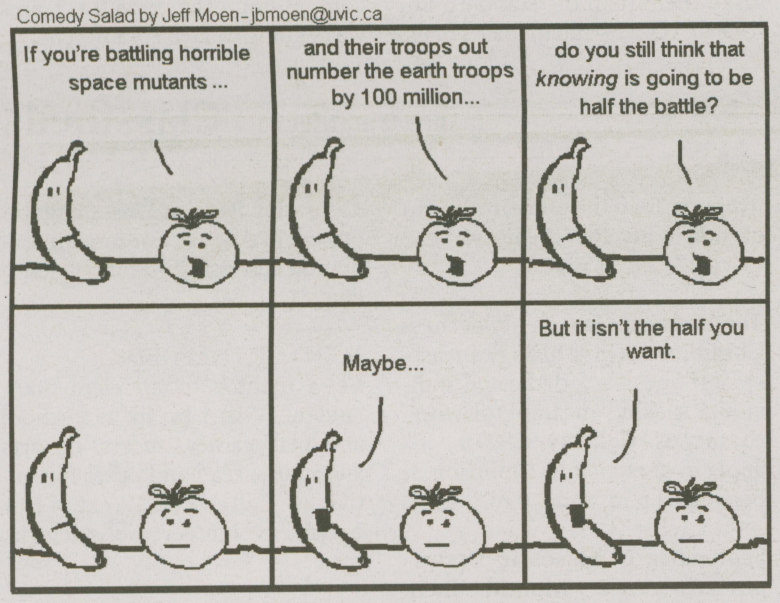
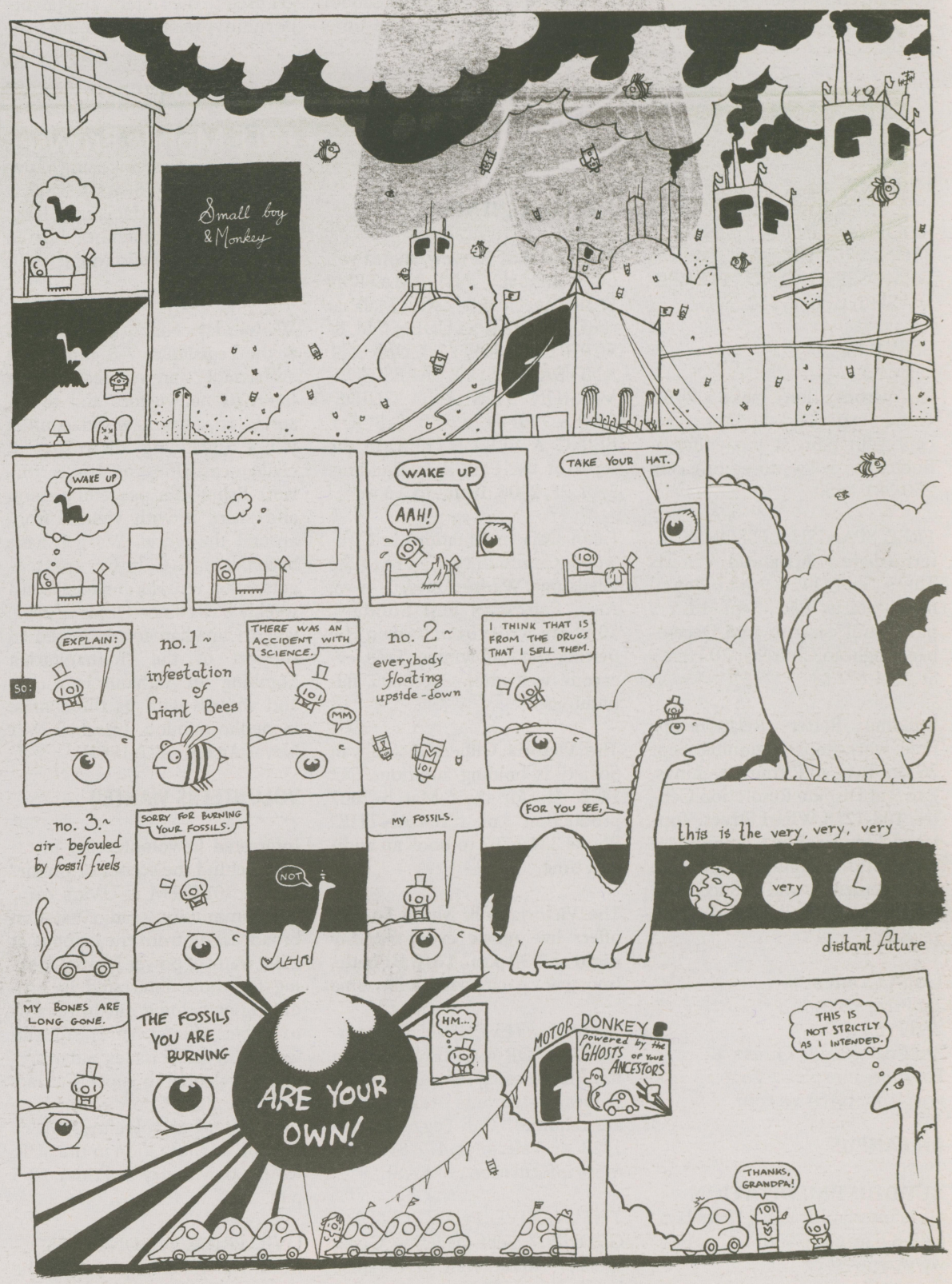
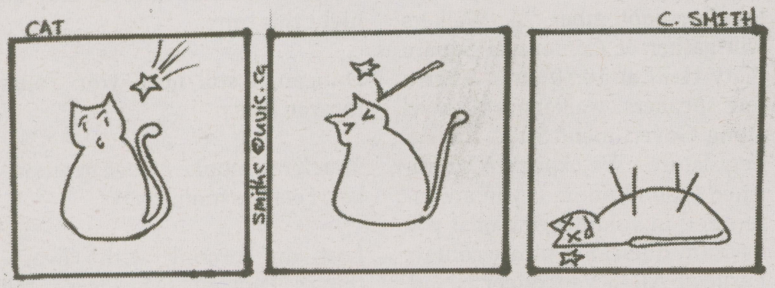


Comedy Salad by Jeff Moen - jbmoen@uvic.ca







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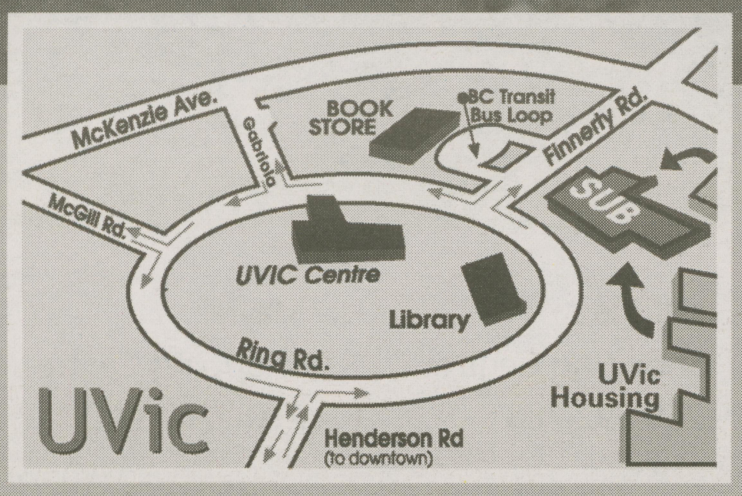

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